FLOWER COMICS
少コミフラワーコミックス

天は赤い河のほとり 15

篠原千絵
Chie Shinohara

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小学館
FC7385

9784091373854

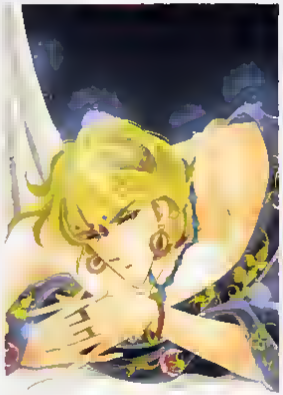
ISBN4-09-137385-2

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

定価：本体390円＋税

雑誌 46083－85　小学館



少コミ フラワーコミックス

●作品紹介

★自らの意志でユーリはカイルのもとに残る。たがナキア皇太后の策で、後宮に正妃候補たちが多数奮められていた。身分の高い姫が正妃につくほうが、カイルのためになると思うユーリ。しかし自分のそばが、彼が一番くつろいでいることを知る。そんなユーリを何者かが狙い　。大型歴史ロマン第15巻！！

●篠原千絵のFC

天は赤い河のほとり ①〜㉔
蒼の封印 全11巻
海の闇、月の影 全18巻
闇のパープル・アイ 全12巻
陵子の心霊事件簿 全4巻

●篠原千絵傑作集
①訪問者は真夜中に…
②目撃者にさようなら
③なにかが闇で見ている
④3人目が消えた

●フラワーコミックススペシャル
逃亡急行（エスケープエクスプレス）

●小学館文庫
蒼の封印 全7巻
海の闇、月の影 全11巻
闇のパープル・アイ 全7巻
そして5回の鈴が鳴る
凍った夏の日
陵子の心霊事件簿 全2巻

●篠原千絵イラスト集
イシュタル
（天は赤い河のほとり 複製原画集）
海の闇、月の影
闇のパープル・アイ

少女の恋のバイブル
少女コミック
毎月5日・20日発売！

作者からのメッセージ

最近興味をもっているのはトンボ玉。トンボ玉とは色や模様のついたガラス玉で、まあカイルのつけているネックレスなどがそうだと言えばわかりやすいかな。先日手に入れたものは、16世紀頃のオランダの玉をローマン・ビーズで巻いだものだそうだ。とても気にいっているけど、もったいなくてまだつけて外出していない。

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＊少コミフラワーコミックス＊

Red River ⑮

篠原千絵

RED RIVER 15

The story thus far~

• YURI, A REGULAR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, WAS PULLED INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER ONE DAY

• THE NEXT THING SHE KNEW, SHE WAS ALREADY IN THE ANCIENT HITTITE EMPIRE. SHE WAS BROUGHT ACROSS AS A SACRIFICE FOR QUEEN NAKIA'S PLOT. FORTUNATELY, PRINCE KAIL RESCUED HER JUST IN TIME AND LET HER TAKE REFUGE IN HIS PALACE AS HIS "CONCUBINE."

• YURI WANTS TO GO BACK TO HER HOME IN THE 20TH CENTURY BUT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE QUEEN, WHOSE MALICIOUS ACTIONS ENDED UP COSTING THE LIVES OF MANY WHO WERE CLOSE TO YURI.

Kail

THE PRINCE OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE. HE ALSO BEARS THE TITLE OF A HIGH PRIEST.

LEADING CHARACTERS

Queen Nakia

SHE WISHES TO SACRIFICE YURI SO THAT HER HER SON MAY BECOME THE EMPEROR. SHE ALSO BEARS THE TITLE OF A HIGH PRIESTESS

Yuri

SHE WAS A NORMAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 3RD YEAR BUT SHE WAS FORCED TO COME TO ANCIENT TURKEY (THE HITTITE EMPIRE).

- AT LAST KAIL HAS ASSUMED THE THRONE AS THE KING OF HITTITE. YET QUEEN NAKIA, WHO HAS BECOME THE QUEEN DOWAGER, STILL DOESN'T GIVE UP ON TAKING YURI'S LIFE. SHE PLANNED TO SEPARATE KAIL AND YURI BY SETTING OUT A TWO-SIDED WAR ON THE HITTITE EMPIRE.

- AFTER KAIL AND YURI LED THE ARMY AND DEFEATED THE DUAL THREATS, YURI DECIDES TO STAY WITH KAIL AT THE HITTITE CAPITOL.

- KAIL DETERMINES TO MAKE YURI HIS QUEEN. BUT QUEEN NAKIA ARRANGED TO BRING A NUMBER OF WOMEN INTO THE PALACE, FORCING KAIL TO PICK HIS QUEEN AND CONCUBINES FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER.

- DRIVEN BY ENVY, THE WOMEN START TO PICK ON YURI...

AAAAAAHHH!!

SIS...
HOW COULD THE CLASP GET LOOSE!? DIDN'T YOU TWO CHECK IT WHILE YOU WERE PREPARING HER DRESS!?
NO WAY...
Heh
Heh
Heh
FIN

SWAP
!?
Grab

AHH!!
thump
YOUR HIGHNESS!!
TAKING OFF YOUR CLOTHES NOW IS A BIT TOO SOON
LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE ARE ALONE FIRST

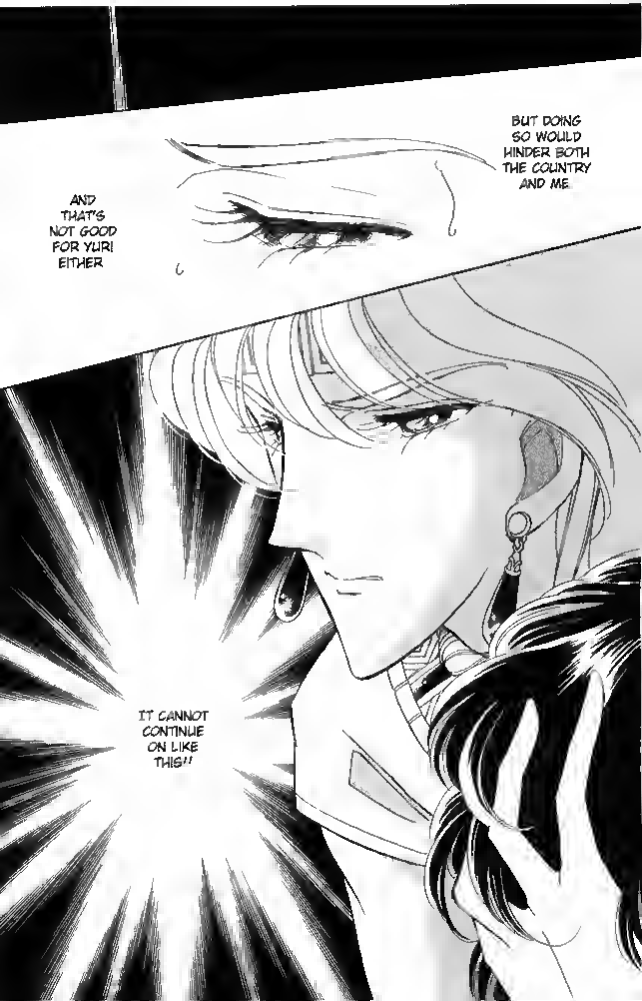
YOUR..
YOUR HIGHNESS!?
YOUR HIGHNESS!?
YOUR HIGHNESS
!?
UMM.. MY SEAT IS OVER THERE..

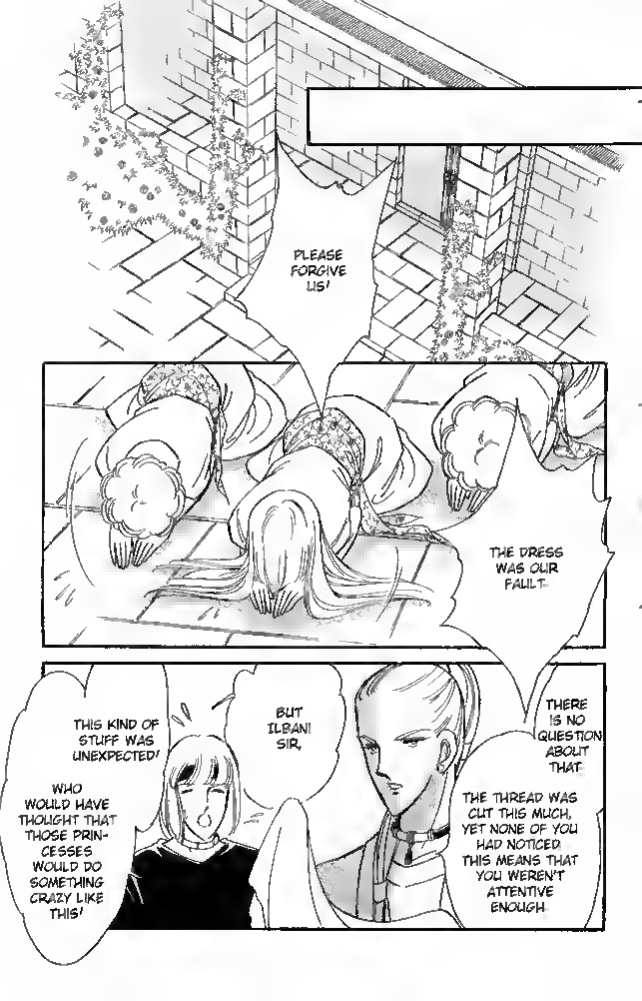
NO...
KAIL!?
YOUR HIGHNESS,
THE PARTY TONIGHT IS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE YOUR QUEEN.
THIS IS THE KING'S SEAT!?
LETTING THAT LOW CLASS WOMAN SIT ON YOUR CHAIR LIKE THAT IS RUDE TO THE LADIES AND PRINCESSES WHO ARE PRESENTED HERE!.
EH!?

STEP-MOTHER,
THE RUMOR THAT I AM INFATUATED BY THIS WOMAN IS ALREADY KNOWN TO ALL THE LADIES HERE
IF ANYONE WANTS TO ENTER MY SERAGLIO,
SHE HAS TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS SORT OF THING

KAIL...!
DON'T MIND US OVER HERE
PLEASE CONTINUE WITH THE PARTY.

Grab
KAIL!!
LOVELY YURI...
KEEPING YURI AT THE DEEP OF THE AND PROTECTING WITH THESE ARMS SO SHE WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER ANY IS EASY.

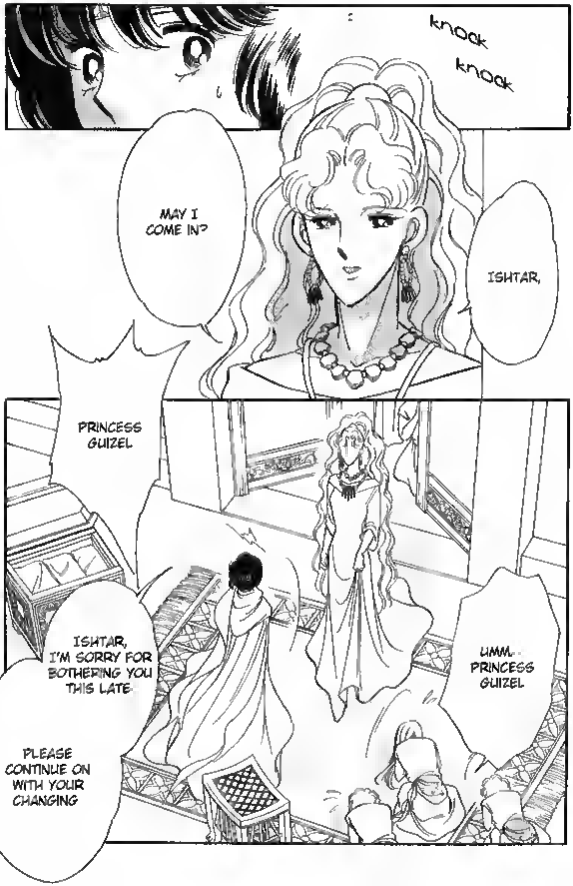

BUT DOING SO WOULD HINDER BOTH THE COUNTRY AND ME.
AND THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YURI EITHER
IT CANNOT CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS!!

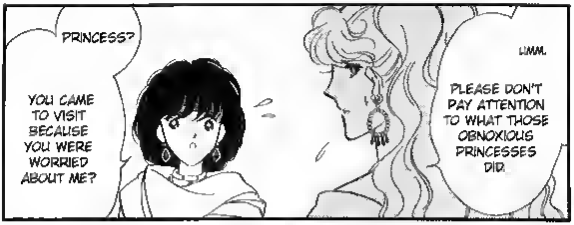

PLEASE FORGIVE US!
THE DRESS WAS OUR FAULT.
THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.
THE THREAD WAS CUT THIS MUCH, YET NONE OF YOU HAD NOTICED. THIS MEANS THAT YOU WEREN'T ATTENTIVE ENOUGH.
BUT ILBAN! SIR,
THIS KIND OF STUFF WAS UNEXPECTED!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THOSE PRINCESSES WOULD DO SOMETHING CRAZY LIKE THIS!

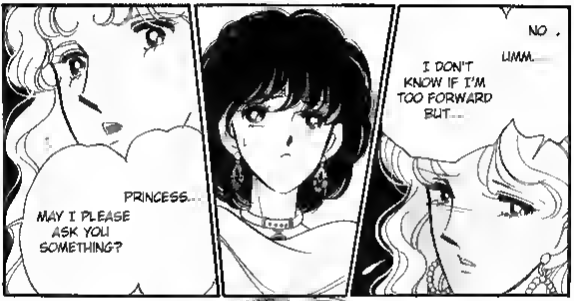
YUR!
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY.
THEY WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND, AND I WASN'T HURT EITHER.
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE FESTIVITY IS NOT OVER YET, SHOULDN'T YOU RETURN TO THE PARTY?
I AM GOING GO CHANGE MY DRESS TOO
- LATER -
THEN I WILL BE BACK -

PRINCESS YURI
ACTUALLY,
IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF THE KING WAS 100-200 CONCUBINES RIGHT?
... PRINCESS YURI
ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT WHAT THOSE PRINCESSES DID?
PRINCESS YURI, IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THOSE PRINCESSES, THERE'S NO WAY THAT HIS HIGHNESS WOULD LIKE ANY OF THEM.
PRINCESS YURI!
I CAN TOLERATE THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.
WHAT I CAN'T TOLERATE IS THE FACT THAT I CANNOT HELP HIS HIGHNESS OUT AT ALL.

DAY AFTER DAY THAT I LIVE INSIDE THIS PALACE, I ALWAYS HAVE HIS HIGHNESS TO PROTECT ME SO MUCH THAT I'VE BECOME MERELY A HINDRANCE.
FOR THE KING OF A COUNTRY, A QUEEN WHO CAN PROVIDE SUPPORTS IN VARIOUS ASPECTS IS A NECESSITY NO MATTER IF THE KING LOVES HER OR NOT.
EVEN I UNDERSTAND THAT
YET IN TIMES OF PEACE, THE GODDESS OF WAR CANNOT HELP OUT WITH ANYTHING
PRINCESS YURI—


knock
knock
MAY I COME IN?
ISHTAR,
PRINCESS GUIZEL
ISHTAR, I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU THIS LATE
PLEASE CONTINUE ON WITH YOUR CHANGING
UMM... PRINCESS GUIZEL


PRINCESS?
YOU CAME TO VISIT BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
UMM.
PLEASE DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THOSE OBNOXIOUS PRINCESSES DID.

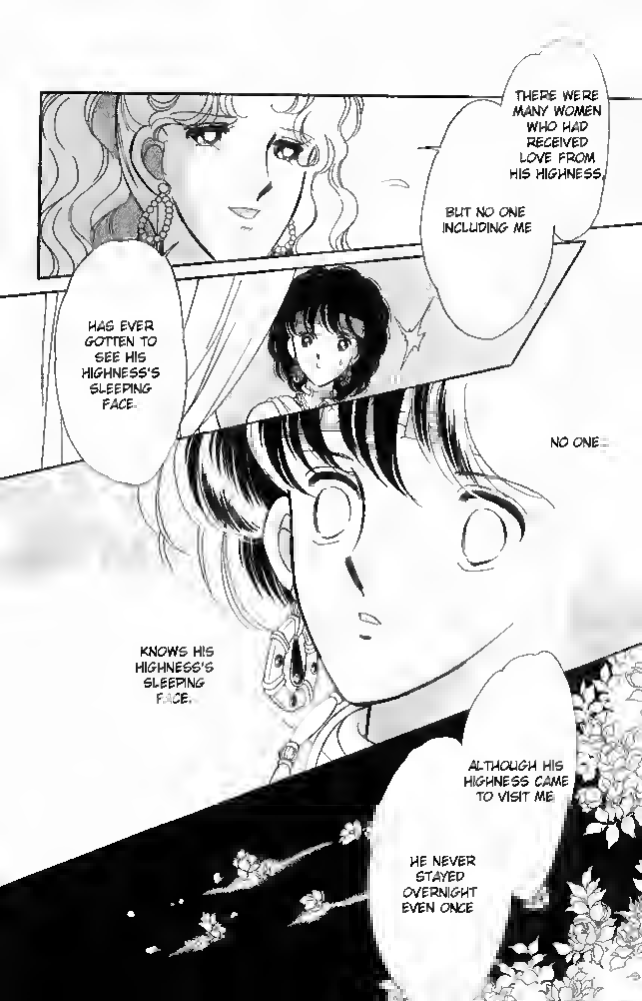

PRINCESS...
MAY I PLEASE ASK YOU SOMETHING?
NO.
UMM...
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M TOO FORWARD BUT...

WERE YOU EVER RESENTED BY THE OTHER PRINCESSES?
IN THE PAST WHEN HIS HIGHNESS USED TO GO VISIT YOU,

AA! BUT ISHTAR IS DIFFERENT THOUGH
YOU ARE SPECIAL TO HIS HIGHNESS
I'M GOING TO GO CHANGE NOW.
THANK YOU.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE ALREADY UNDERSTOOD HOW THINGS ARE, IT'S STILL PAINFUL TO HAVE OTHERS BE JEALOUS OF YOU.
IF SO...
UMM...
ABOUT THAT...
I WASN'T LEFT TO LIVE PEACEFULLY EITHER.
BUT HIS HIGHNESS DIDN'T BELONG SOLELY TO ME TO BEGIN WITH
DOESN'T BELONG SOLELY TO ME
HE...

FOR EXAMPLE, AT NIGHT WHEN YOU LEAVE HIS HIGHNESS'S ROOM TO GO BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM. .
I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS,
BUT YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET THOSE OTHER PRINCESSES NOTICE
BUT, PRINCESS
ISHTAR,
HIS HIGHNESS SLEEPS NEXT TO YOU?
F W A P
WHEN HIS HIGHNESS IS SLEEPING,
HE WON'T LET GO OF ME AT ALL AND I END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO LEAVE UNTIL MORNING

KAIL HAS A HABIT OF
EMBRACING THE OTHER PERSON UNTIL HE FALLS ASLEEP
YES...!!
AS YOU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY KNOWN.
ISHTAR,
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN IT'S INEVITABLE THAT WOMEN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WOULD BE JEALOUS OF YOU.


THERE WERE MANY WOMEN WHO HAD RECEIVED LOVE FROM HIS HIGHNESS,
BUT NO ONE INCLUDING ME
HAS EVER GOTTEN TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS'S SLEEPING FACE.
NO ONE
KNOWS HIS HIGHNESS'S SLEEPING FACE.
ALTHOUGH HIS HIGHNESS CAME TO VISIT ME
HE NEVER STAYED OVERNIGHT EVEN ONCE

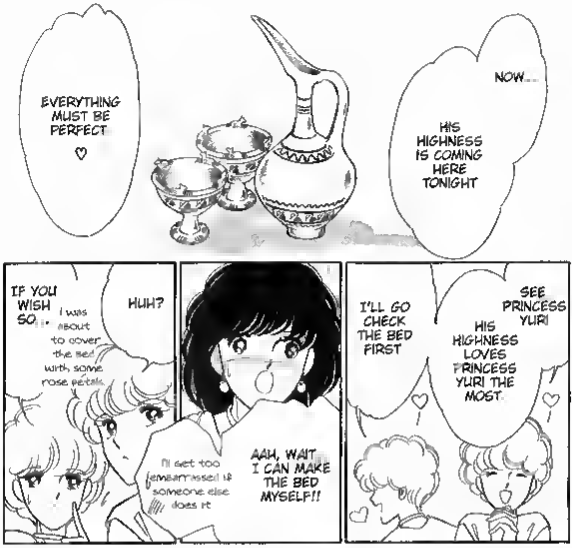
EVEN WHILE HIS HIGHNESS PUT US INTO A DAZE WITH PLEASURE,
HE STILL REFUSED TO FALL ASLEEP.
AND HE WOULD ALWAYS PUT HIS SWORD WITHIN HIS REACH

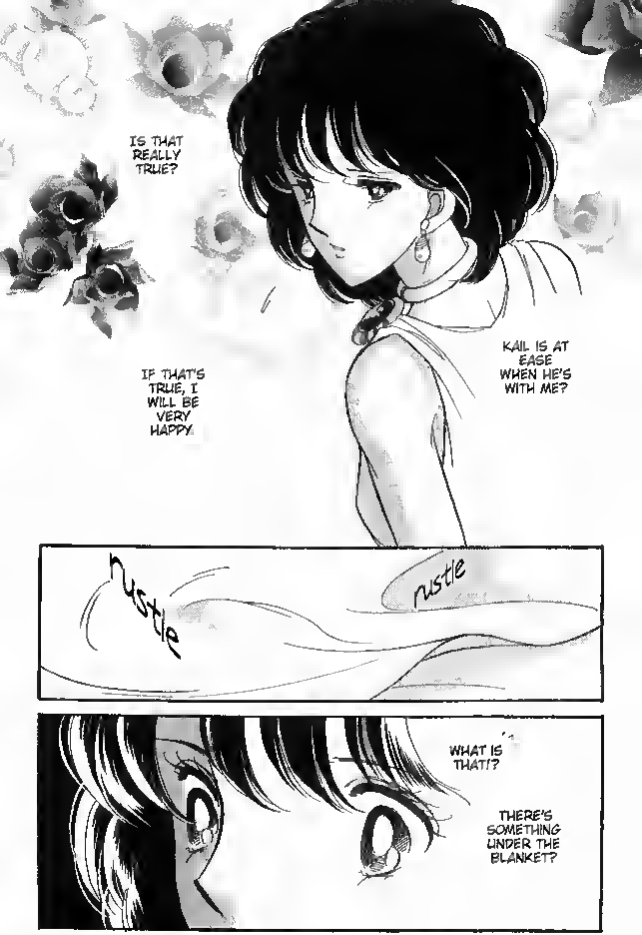
HAS FOUND A PLACE WHERE HE CAN FULLY BE AT EASE
AT LAST HIS HIGHNESS...
AT THE TIME HIS HIGHNESS WAS STILL NOT THE CROWN PRINCE,
BUT THE AWARENESS THAT HE INHERITED THE IMPERIAL LINE MADE HIM CONSTANTLY ON GUARD EVEN WHILE HE RESTED
KAIL...
...IS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME?

...IS ME?
THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HIS LONG LASHES AND HIS EVEN BREATHS
THE ONLY PERSON WHO HE HAS EMBRACED IN HIS SLEEP...
...IS ME?

IT CAN'T BE DONE?
HAVING YURI HOLD THE CONTROL OVER THE SERAGLIO IS IMPOSSIBLE?
I SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH THAT, RIGHT?
YURI HAS DONE WELL BEYOND EXPECTATION AS THE GODDESS OF WAR.
YOUR HIGHNESS

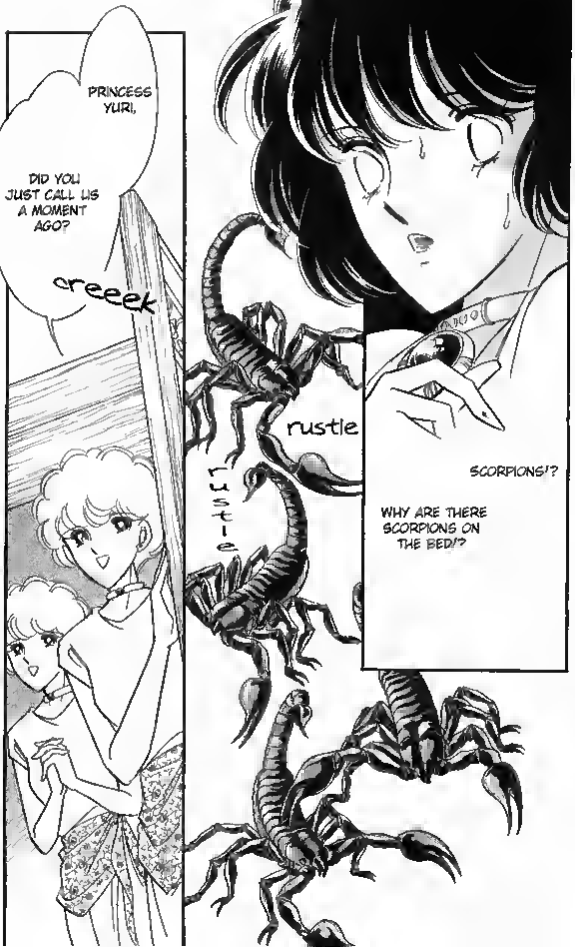
AM I...
YOUR HIGHNESS...
FORCING YURI TO DO SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE?

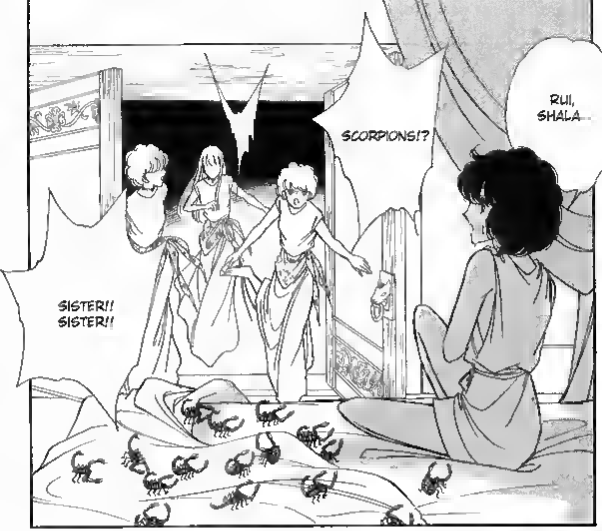

EVERYTHING MUST BE PERFECT ♡
NOW...
HIS HIGHNESS IS COMING HERE TONIGHT
IF YOU WISH SO...
I was about to cover the bed with some rose petals.
HUH?
I'll get too embarrassed if someone else does it
AAH, WAIT I CAN MAKE THE BED MYSELF!!
I'LL GO CHECK THE BED FIRST
SEE PRINCESS YURI
HIS HIGHNESS LOVES PRINCESS YURI THE MOST.

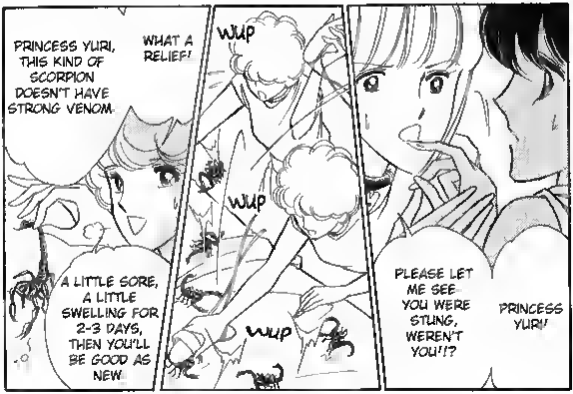

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
IF THAT'S TRUE, I WILL BE VERY HAPPY.
KAIL IS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME?
rustle
rustle
WHAT IS THAT!?
THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE BLANKET?

Ouch!
Prick
!?
Rustle

SCORPIONS?!
rustle
rustle


PRINCESS YURI,
DID YOU JUST CALL US A MOMENT AGO?
creeek
rustle
rustle
SCORPIONS!?
WHY ARE THERE SCORPIONS ON THE BED!?


RUI, SHALA...
SCORPIONS!?
SISTER!! SISTER!!


PRINCESS YURI, THIS KIND OF SCORPION DOESN'T HAVE STRONG VENOM.
WHAT A RELIEF!
A LITTLE SORE, A LITTLE SWELLING FOR 2-3 DAYS, THEN YOU'LL BE GOOD AS NEW.
WUP
WUP
WUP
PLEASE LET ME SEE YOU WERE STUNG, WEREN'T YOU!!?
PRINCESS YURI!

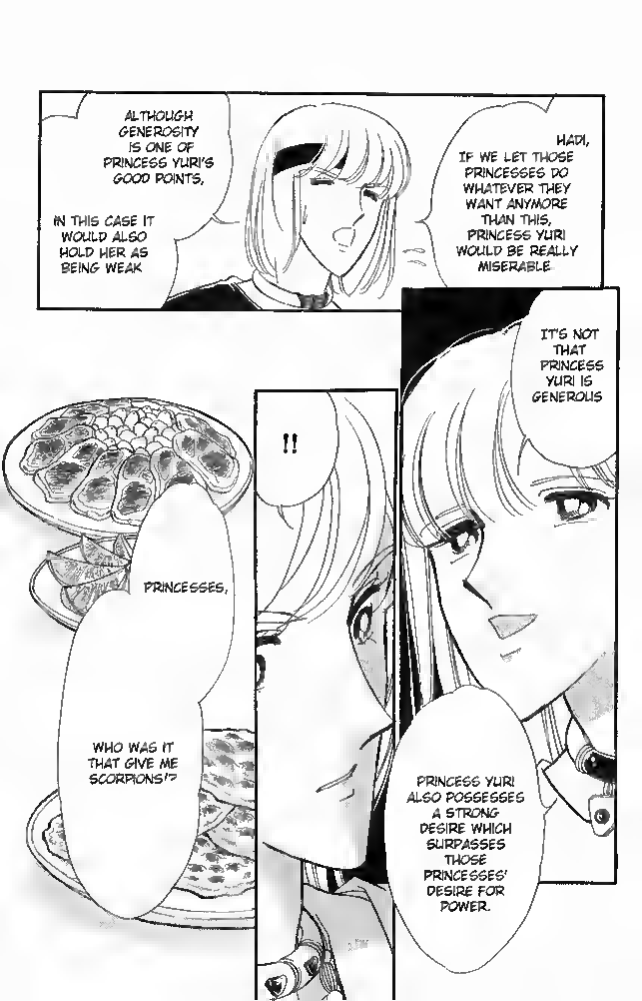
I'LL GO TO THE MEDICAL CENTER TO GET SOME MEDICINAL HERBS
THIS MUST BE THE WORK OF THOSE PRINCESSES
THAT'S A RELIEF
IF IT WAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER, SHE WOULD HAVE ALREADY USED SCORPIONS WITH DEADLY VENOM BY NOW.
Let me give you first aid for now
THE WORK OF...
THE WORK OF THOSE PRINCESSES?
DON'T YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE QUEEN DOWAGER?
BUT FOR THOSE PRINCESSES THEIR METHODS FOR THIS KIND OF STUFF WILL GRADUALLY ESCALATE
They are really childish
THOSE PRINCESSES....

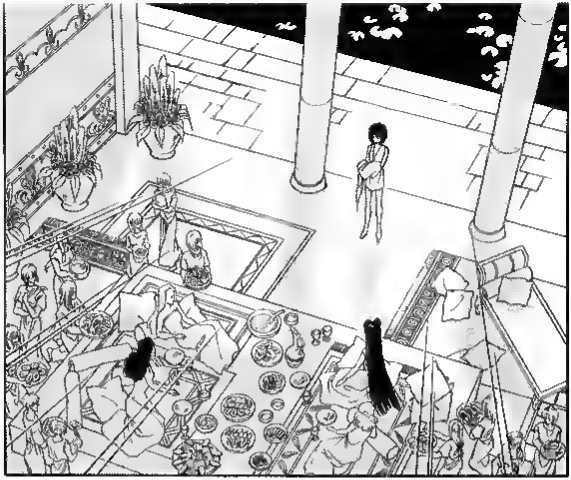
BUT THIS ROOM...
HIS HIGHNESS ALSO COMES TO VISIT.
I CAN TOLERATE THEM HARASSING ME
THIS SORT OF THING...
PRINCESS YURI!!!

RUI?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR HIGHNESS!!

WHAT!?
I AM ON THE WAY TO GET SOME MEDICINE, SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME
BUT THE WOUND WASN'T VERY SERIOUS .
SOMEONE RELEASED SCORPIONS ALL OVER PRINCESS YURI'S BED,
AND PRINCESS YURI WAS STUNG ON THE FINGER, SIR
RELEASING SCORPIONS ON THE BED LIKE THIS IS GETTING TOO VICIOUS!!
ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY SCORPIONS!!
YURI!!
I CAN'T LET IT GO ON LIKE THIS

BANG
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
HADI
YURI
IS YURI OKAY!?
GETTING YURI AS MY QUEEN MIGHT TAKE A BIT LONGER,
BUT I HAVE TO GIVE THOSE WOMEN SOME WARNINGS.
YOUR HIGH-NESS, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT YET!
PLEASE LET PRINCESS YURI TAKE CARE OF IT


ALTHOUGH GENEROSITY IS ONE OF PRINCESS YURI'S GOOD POINTS,
IN THIS CASE IT WOULD ALSO HOLD HER AS BEING WEAK
HADI, IF WE LET THOSE PRINCESSES DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ANYMORE THAN THIS, PRINCESS YURI WOULD BE REALLY MISERABLE
IT'S NOT THAT PRINCESS YURI IS GENEROUS
!!
PRINCESSES,
WHO WAS IT THAT GIVE ME SCORPIONS!?
PRINCESS YURI ALSO POSSESSES A STRONG DESIRE WHICH SURPASSES THOSE PRINCESSES' DESIRE FOR POWER.



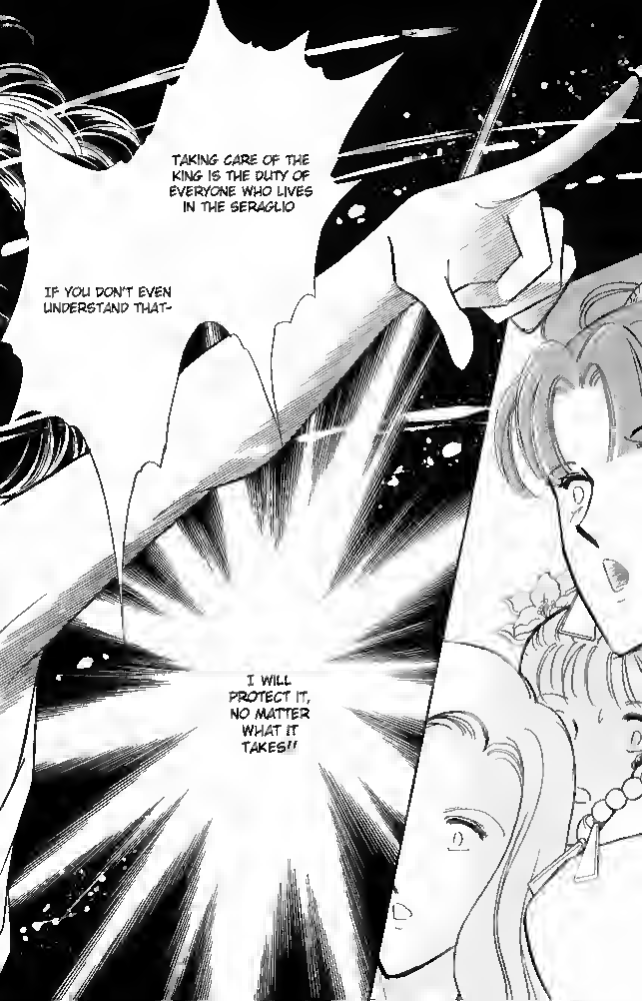
AS I THOUGHT, PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM HILLS AND WOODS CAN WITHSTAND VENOM OF THAT LEVEL JUST FINE.
Gasp
Gasp
Gasp
OH MY, YOU STILL SEEM HEALTHY THOUGH
PRINCESS AKSAM
IT WAS YOU,
SO.

FWAP
AAAAAH!!
I'M RETURNING THESE TO YOU.
WHA...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU INSOLENT GIRL!!?
STOP ACTING SO IMMATURE!!!

GASP
HEY... I HEARD THAT ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY A SCORPION
WHAT!?
HOW IS HER CONDITION NOW!?
MY MOM IS GOOD AT MAKING MEDICINE
I'LL GO GET IT!
WAIT!! THERE ARE ALSO MEDICINAL PLANTS AT THE PALACE!!

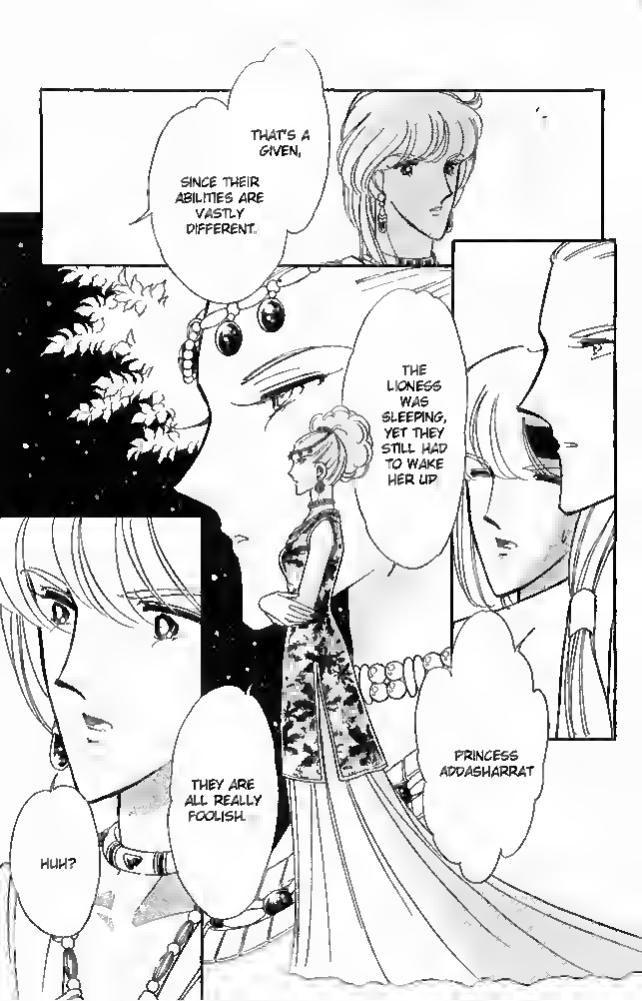
DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS
THOSE SCORPIONS ARE ALREADY DEAD
TH-TH TH THEY ARE ALREADY DEAD,
SO WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT!?
I AM AN ARISTOCRAT KNOW YOUR LIMIT!!
!!
THEN HOW ABOUT WHAT YOU JUST DID!?
THE KING ALSO VISITS MY ROOM

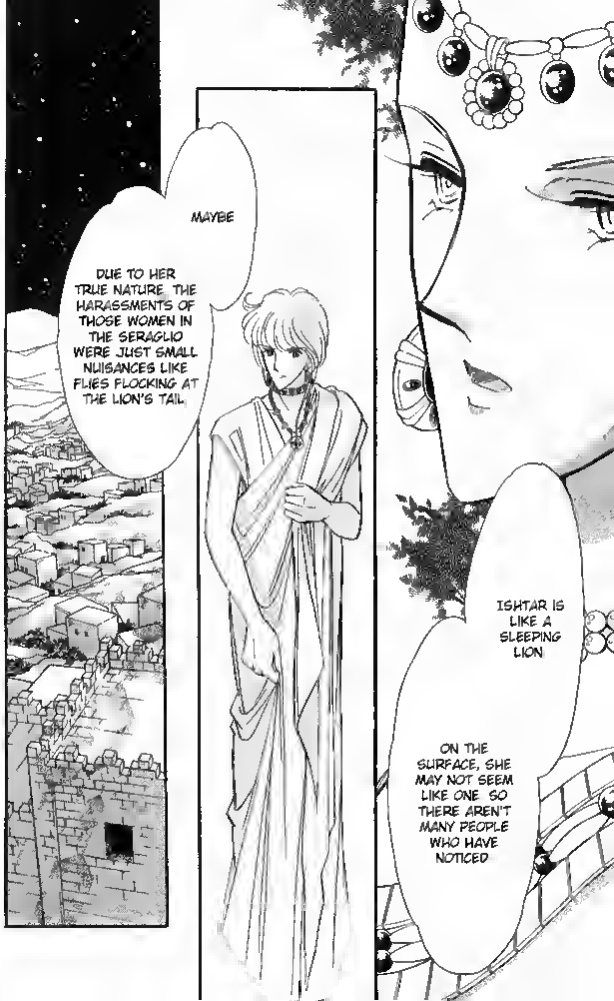
IF... KAIL FEELS AT EASE WHEN HE'S WITH ME...
I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.
YOU...
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME...?
RIGHT!?
IF, BY CHANCE THINGS WENT WRONG, HIS HIGHNESS COULD HAVE BEEN STUNG
YOU ARE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, SO STOP DOING SOMETHING SO IMMATURE
I DON'T HAVE ANY PEDIGREE, BUT...
IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN GIVE TO KAIL...


TAKING CARE OF THE KING IS THE DUTY OF EVERYONE WHO LIVES IN THE SERAGLIO
IF YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT-
I WILL PROTECT IT, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!

THEN GET OUT AND LEAVE!!

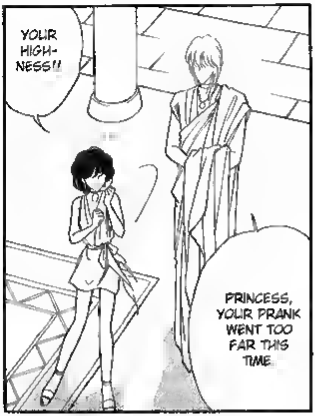
WHAT PRINCESS YURI WANTS...
AND GIVES THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IS YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS
THAT FEELING IS GREATER THAN THE WISHES OF ALL THOSE PRINCESSES COMBINED.
PRINCESS YURI IS REALLY AMAZING
BEING ABLE TO MAKE ALL THOSE PRINCESSES SHUT UP MEANS THAT


THAT'S A GIVEN,
SINCE THEIR ABILITIES ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT.
THE LIONESS WAS SLEEPING, YET THEY STILL HAD TO WAKE HER UP.
PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT
THEY ARE ALL REALLY FOOLISH.
HUH?


ISHTAR IS LIKE A SLEEPING LION
ON THE SURFACE, SHE MAY NOT SEEM LIKE ONE SO THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOTICED
MAYBE
DUE TO HER TRUE NATURE THE HARASSMENTS OF THOSE WOMEN IN THE SERAGLIO WERE JUST SMALL NUISANCES LIKE FLIES FLOCKING AT THE LION'S TAIL

AFTER ALL,
ISHTAR HAD TAKEN COMMAND OF THE HITTITE ARMY IN BATTLES AGAINST EGYPT AND MITANNI BEFORE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
ISHTAR WAS STUNG BY A SCORPION!
MOM, YOU HAVE THE MEDICINE FOR SCORPIONS' VENOM, RIGHT!?
LET ME HAVE IT RIGHT AWAY.
THOSE WHO HAVE GROWN UP WITHIN THE PALACE'S WALLS KNOW NOTHING OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD,
YET THEY DARE PROVOKING HER. THEY REALLY DON'T KNOW THEIR PLACE
WHAT DID YOU SAY!? ISHTAR!?
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
IS THAT TRUE!?

MY HOUSE HAS A LOT OF GOOD QUALITY MEDICINAL PLANTS TOO! I'LL BRING SOME TO THE PALACE TOO
THEN,
HURRY UP AND TAKE THIS TO THE PALACE!!
I'D BETTER BRING HER SOME MEDICINE FROM MY HOUSE.
I WONDER IF SHE'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT
WHAT!? ISHTAR!? THAT'S TERRIBLE
I'M GOING TO DO SO TOO
TAKE THE MEDICINE TO ISHTAR!!
I'M GOING TO BRING THE MEDICINE TO THE PALACE FOR ISHTAR


YOUR HIGH-NESS!!
PRINCESS, YOUR PRANK WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME.

YOUR HIGH-NESS

YOUR HIGH-NESS
BUT IT SEEMS I DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYMORE THAN THIS

YUR!

I'LL LEAVE MATTERS IN THIS SERAGLIO FOR YOU TO MANAGE

EVERYONE SAID THEY WISHED TO GIVE THEIR MEDICINE TO ISHTAR
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE GATHERING OUTSIDE THE PALACE'S WALL THAT THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF CONTROL
YOUR HIGHNESS, ISHTAR,
HUH?
ISHTAR, PLEASE GO OUT TO THE GALLERY!!
WE DON'T NEED THIS MUCH MEDICINE!!
THE PALACE ALSO HAS SOME MEDICINE
MEDICINE
THE PEOPLE WON'T LEAVE UNLESS THEY SEE THAT YOU ARE WELL!!
WE WANT TO GIVE ISHTAR OUR MEDICINE!!

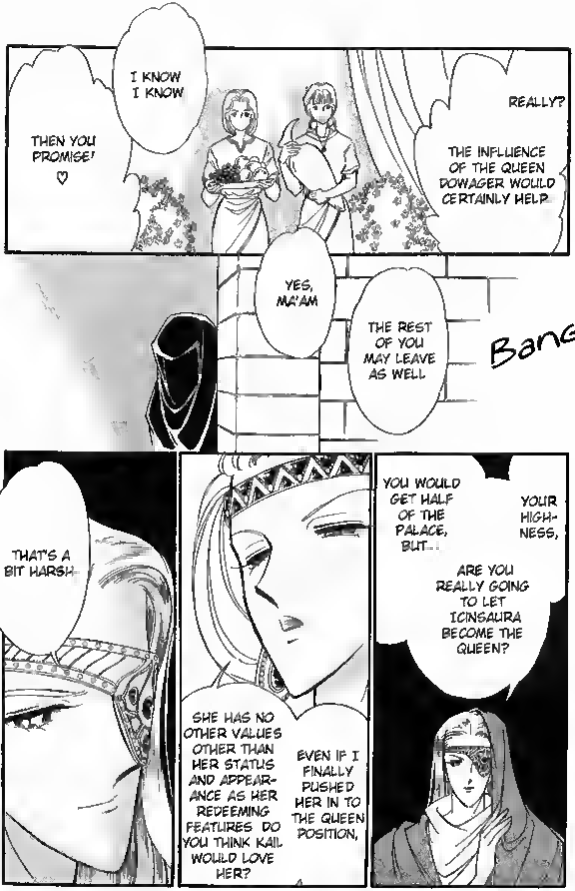
I AM OKAY!!
EVERYBODY, THANK YOU!!
Hooray
Hooray

Hooray

Hooray Ray
PROTECTED BY THE PEOPLE AND CHOSEN BY THE KING HIMSELF
THOSE WHO TRY TO COMPETE WITH HER FOR HIS LOVE
PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT
ARE JUST PLAIN FOOLISH
BUT HER ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE KING AND POLITICAL ALLIES
BEING BORN IN IMPERIAL LINES, POLITICAL MARRIAGE IS UNAVOIDABLE
THE BASIS FOR BEING A "QUEEN" IS NOT THE KING'S LOVE.

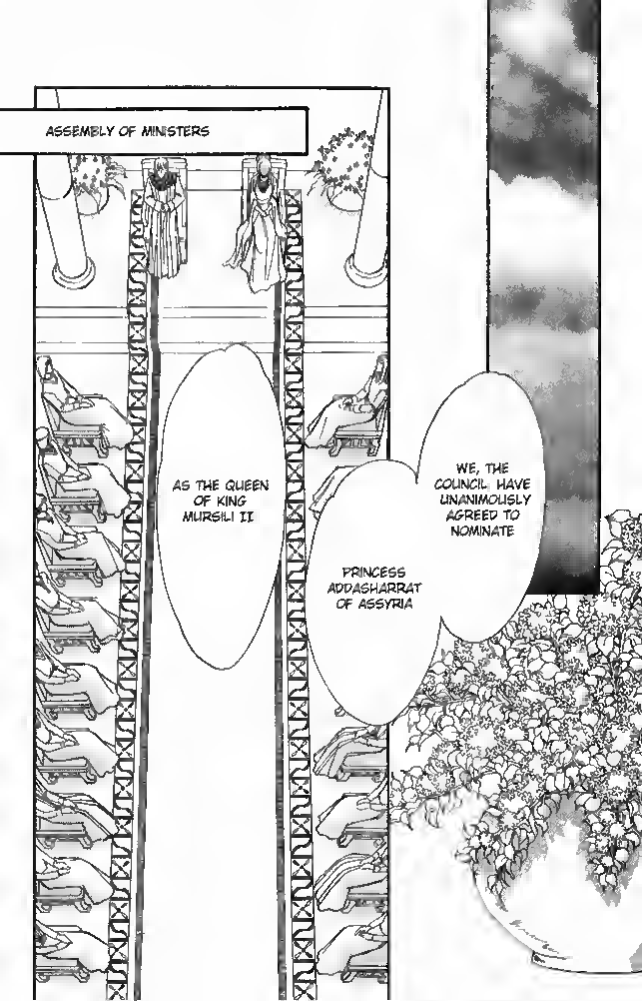
THIS IS FROM MY EXPERIENCE
PLEASE DON'T MIND ME IF I SAID TOO MUCH
PLEASE EXCUSE ME
PRINCESS
PERHAPS IT MUST BE SOMEONE LIKE HER.
WHAT AN APPROPRIATE THOUGHT BEFIT OF A QUEEN
HMM...

QUEEN DOWAGER'S PALACE
AUNTY, AUNTY
HELP ME!
PLEASE HELP ME BECOME HIS HIGHNESS'S QUEEN!!
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD BE THIS GREAT OF A PERSON
PLEASE, AUNTY..
ALRIGHT, I'LL TRY TO FIND A WAY
PRINCESS ICINSAURA


I KNOW I KNOW
THEN YOU PROMISE! ♡
REALLY?
THE INFLUENCE OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER WOULD CERTAINLY HELP.
YES, MA'AM
THE REST OF YOU MAY LEAVE AS WELL
Bang
THAT'S A BIT HARSH.
SHE HAS NO OTHER VALUES OTHER THAN HER STATUS AND APPEARANCE AS HER REDEEMING FEATURES. DO YOU THINK KAIL WOULD LOVE HER?
EVEN IF I FINALLY PUSHED HER IN TO THE QUEEN POSITION,
YOUR HIGHNESS,
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO LET ICINSALIRA BECOME THE QUEEN?
YOU WOULD GET HALF OF THE PALACE, BUT...

I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ICINSALIRA ANYWAY.
HALF THE PALACE IS NOT ENOUGH!!
IS TO GET THE WHOLE EMPIRE.
THE PURPOSE OF ROUNDING UP THOSE WOMEN IN THE SERAGLIO
AS YOU WISH.
SHOULD WE BEGIN OUR PLAN SOON?

HMM...
SEND THIS "BLACK WATER" TO THE SERAGLIO.
WELL, WHICH PRINCESS SHOULD I CONTROL AS THE "ASSASSIN"?
IT'S REALLY FUN TO PICK WHICH ONE TO USE.


ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS
AS THE QUEEN OF KING MURSILI II
WE, THE COUNCIL HAVE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO NOMINATE
PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT OF ASSYRIA

MOODY
QUEEN DOWAGER, YOUR NIECE PRINCESS ICINSAURA, IS ALSO ONE OF THE PRINCESSES BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE QUEEN POSITION. DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINION ON THIS?
NO, I DON'T.
PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT WILL CERTAINLY BE A GOOD QUEEN
LIAR!
WHY DIDN'T THE QUEEN DOWAGER PROTEST!?
I thought she would try to push her own niece for the position...
HAVING SOMEONE OTHER THAN PRINCESS YURI AS HIS HIGHNESS'S QUEEN IS UNTHINKABLE!
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!!

KING LIBARITT OF ASSYRIA WOULD CERTAINLY DEMAND GREATER OUTPUTS OF IRON EXPORTS.
THE PRINCESS IS UNQUESTIONABLY SAGACIOUS
HOWEVER, IF WE TIE A POLITICAL CONNECTION WITH ASSYRIA NOW,
Murmur
HIS HIGHNESS IS RIGHT.
Murmur
Murmur
Murmur
IF ASSYRIA HAS MORE IRON IN THEIR POSSESSION, THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES WOULD CRUMBLE
WE CANNOT EXPORT EVEN MORE IRON THAN THIS!
OUR COUNTRY IS ABLE TO REMAIN ONE OF THE TWO STRONGEST IN THE ORIENT BECAUSE WE HAVE IRON

THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT TO BE QUEEN!?
AAAH.. THIS IS SO IRRITATING!
YES PRINCESS YURI.
HIS HIGHNESS SHOULD JUST THROW EVERY ONE OF THOSE PRINCESSES OUT!
.....
HIS HIGHNESS WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
NO, HE CANNOT DO SO.
FWRUP
ALTHOUGH THIS IS A GOOD RECOMMENDATION, I WOULD LIKE TO PUT THE DECISION ON HOLD FOR THE MOMENT.
THAT IS ALL, YOU MAY GO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR EFFORTS

I LIKE THE FACT THAT HIS HIGHNESS IS NOT A TYRANT.
PRINCESS YURI?
IN THE HITTITE EMPIRE NATIONAL AFFAIRS ARE DECIDED BY THE VOTING POWERS OF THREE BODIES.
THE TABARNA (THE KING), THE TAWANANNA (THE QUEEN), AND THE COUNCIL.
THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN THE ORIENT.

FWUP
EVER SINCE I DECIDED TO STAY HERE, I'VE ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT THINGS MAY NOT BE PLEASANT ALL THE TIME.
FRETTING LIKE THIS IS NOT LIKE ME AT ALL.
I'LL ACCEPT WHOMEVER KAIL CHOOSES AS HIS QUEEN

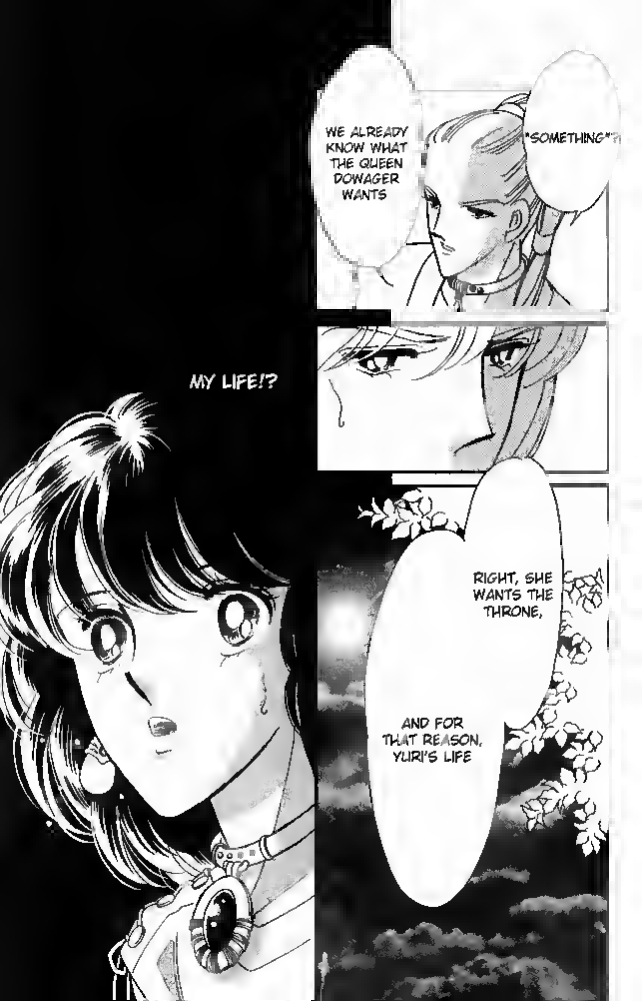
wap
YURI,
AFTER THIS, I WILL GO TO THE SECOND TEMPLE
KAIL!?
YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME TOO
I WANT YOU TO LEARN ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS
OKAY.
YOUR HIGHNESS, PRINCESS YURI,
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT

THE QUEEN DOWAGER HAS MADE HER MOVE
YOUR HIGHNESS, I HAVE URGENT NEWS TO INFORM YOU OF
ILBANI?

WH... WHAT HAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER DONE THIS TIME?
THIS MAN TAKES CARE OF THE KITCHEN
GO ON, TELL HIS HIGHNESS WHAT HAPPENED
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOUR..
LAST NIGHT, A FLASK OF WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER WAS DELIVERED TO THE SERAGLIO
THE WINE WAS TO BE OFFERED TO THE PRINCESSES WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE QUEEN POSITION.

WHAT!?
WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER..
DON'T TELL ME IT'S..!?
WHICH PRINCESS WAS THE WINE SENT TO?
OR WAS IT SENT TO EVERYONE!?
N...NO, SIR. PER... PERHAPS IT WAS ONLY FOR ONE PERSON SINCE THERE WAS ONLY ONE FLASK.
HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW WHICH PRINCESS IT WAS SENT TO...
SINCE THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S EMISSARY TOLD OTHER SERVANTS IN THE SERAGLIO TO KEEP AWAY
WINE FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
GIVEN TO ONE OF THOSE 7 PRINCESSES..

I KNOW IT IS INEXCUSABLE, BUT I CANNOT GO AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S EMISSARY...
YOU CAN GO NOW. FORGET ABOUT ALL OF THIS.
6/6
QUEEN NAKIA'S WINE MUST HAVE THE "BLACK WATER" INSIDE FOR SURE
SHE MUST PLAN TO USE THE CONTROLLING "WATER" TO DO SOMETHING!
IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT HAPPENED TO TITO AND PRINCE ZANANZA


WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS
"SOMETHING"?
MY LIFE!?
RIGHT, SHE WANTS THE THRONE,
AND FOR THAT REASON, YURI'S LIFE

ROUNDING UP THE PRINCESSES TO KILL ME!?
THEN...
IT'S TO CREATE AN ASSASSIN WHO CAN WALK AROUND FREELY INSIDE THE SERAGLIO!!
I SEE
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S OBJECTIVE IS NOT FOR HER NIECE TO BECOME MY QUEEN.

WHO'S THE ASSASSIN AMONG THOSE 7 PRINCESSES!?

WHO!?
WHICH ONE
DRANK THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S WINE?
turn
turn
turn
EVER SINCE THE DAY THAT I YELLED AT THEM, THE PRINCESSES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN MUCH QUIETER
I didn't mean to make them all afraid of me!

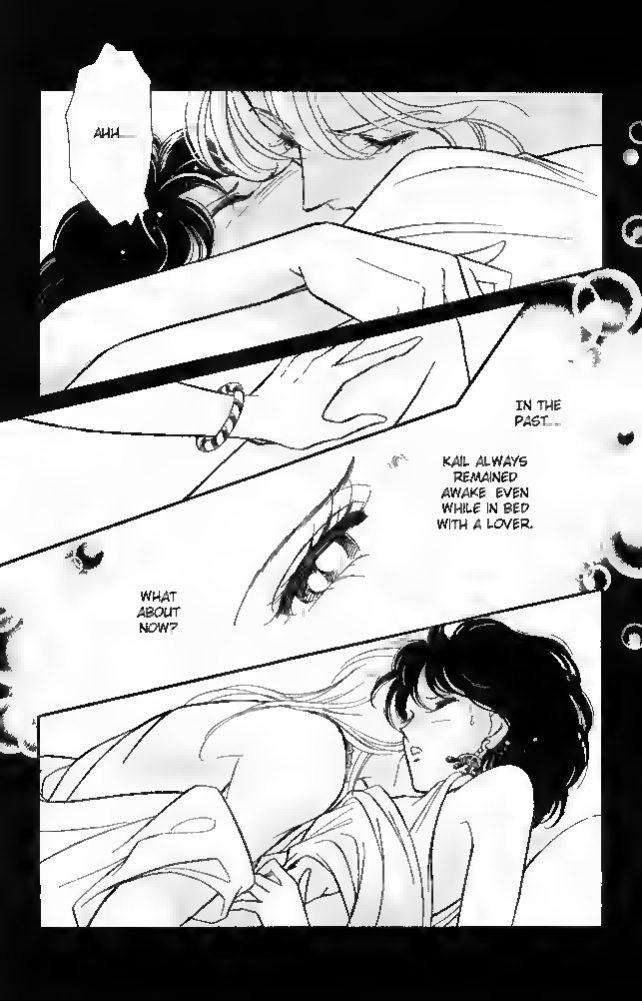
Whu mp
CAUGHT YA ♡
Come play with me today, okay?
I ESPECIALLY DON'T WANT TO THINK THAT THIS PRINCESS COULD BE THE ASSASSIN...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
WINE FROM ALINITY?
WINE?
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, ISHTAR
BUT THEN .
I DIDN'T EXPECT THE ONE BEING MANIPULATED TO TELL THE TRUTH ANYWAY.
THE QUEEN DOWAGER CAN MANIPULATE EVEN HER OWN SON, HER NIECE IS NO EXCEPTION.

SOMEONE AMONGST US MUST HAVE ALREADY DRUNK THE "BLACK WATER."
WHO IS IT?
PRINCESS YUR!
YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU WORRY TOO MUCH
THAT'S RIGHT.
NO MATTER WHICH PRINCESS IS THE ASSASSIN, WE WOULDN'T LET HER LAY EVEN A FINGER ON PRINCESS YUR!
YEAH. YOU THREE ARE THE BEST BODYGUARDS IN THIS SERAGLIO ANYWAY.
OF COURSE!
Klank

FWUP
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT
IT'S VERY HARD TO FIND A WOMAN WHO CAN MATCH YOU AND THOSE THREE SISTERS IN FIGHTING SKILLS
YEAH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK DEPRESSED

THIS CAN LEAD TO INTER-NATIONAL DISPUTES
IT WOULD BE BAD IF A PERSON WHO IS BEING MANIPULATED IS A PRINCESS
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT..
THAT PERSON MAY BE THE ONE WHO WILL BECOME THE SHIELD SUPPORTING KAIL'S BACK
YOU..
YOUR LIFE IS BEING TARGETED, YET YOU STILL WORRY ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF..
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THINGS LIKE PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL SCALE
KAIL!?
YURI
DO NOT UNDERESTI-MATE ME

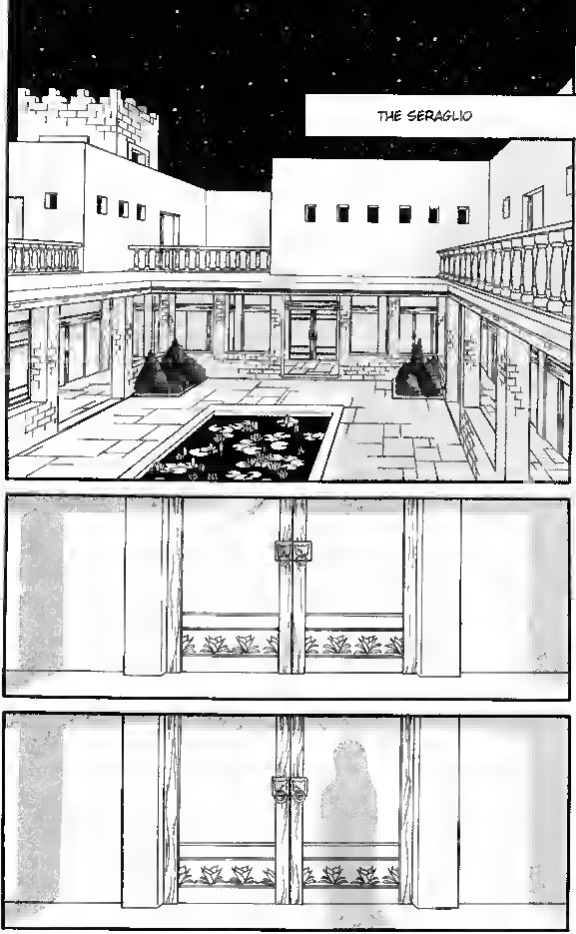
I DON'T WANT A QUEEN TO BE MY GUARDIAN
I STILL CAN GOVERN THE COUNTRY EVEN WITHOUT SOMEONE LIKE THAT
I'M NOT AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THERE'S SOMETHING KAIL IS AFRAID OF TOO?
THERE IS....


AHH...
IN THE PAST...
KAIL ALWAYS REMAINED AWAKE EVEN WHILE IN BED WITH A LOVER.
WHAT ABOUT NOW?

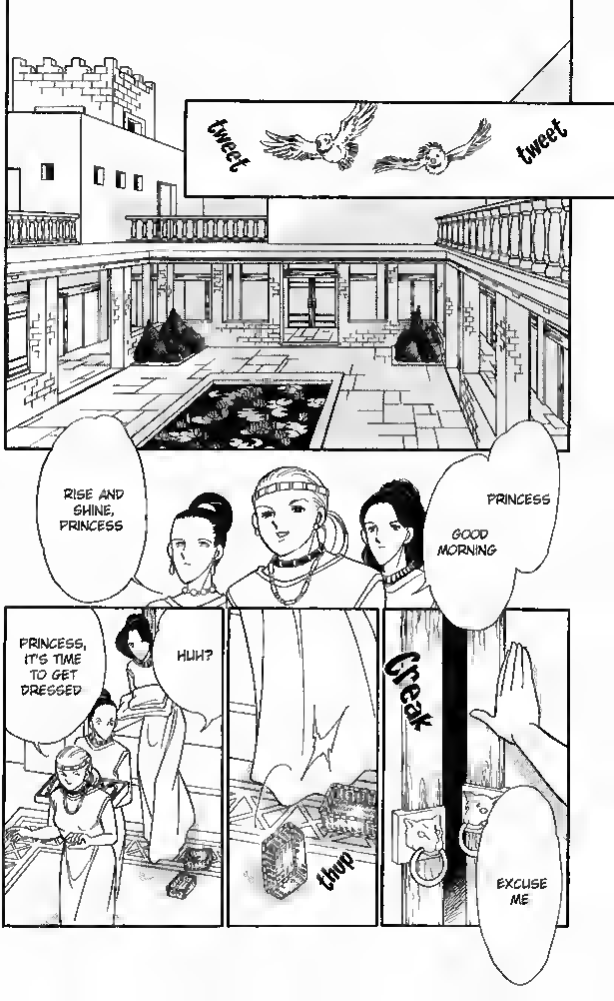
HOW IS KAIL WHEN HE'S WITH ME?
I WANT TO FIND OUT BUT
KA...IL...
EVERY TIME.
I END UP BEING THE ONE WHO DOESN'T THINK OF NYTHING FIRST.

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN TO YOU
WHAT I'M AFRAID OF EVEN MORE THAN THAT?

EVEN THEN, I'M STILL WORRIED
SO THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE TAKEN AWAY OR RUN AWAY OR DISAPPEAR AS I SLEEP
EVERY NIGHT I HOLD YOU CLOSE IN MY ARMS
HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU?


THE SERAGLIO

Creak
Close
thump
thump


tweet
tweet
RISE AND SHINE, PRINCESS
PRINCESS GOOD MORNING
PRINCESS, IT'S TIME TO GET DRESSED
HUH?
thup
Creak
EXCUSE ME

PRINCESS AKSAM?
Rustle

PRINCESS!?

YOUR HIGHNESS
BUT PRINCESS AKSAM HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED
FORGIVE ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR BREAKFAST,
WHAT!?
WHY THE PRINCESS? ISN'T THE TARGET ME!?

WHY WAS PRINCESS AKSAM KILLED?
THE ONE THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS TO KILL SHOULD BE ME
AAH!! PLEASE DON'T COME IN YET!!
YOUR HIGHNESS! ISHTAR!

THERE ARE POISONOUS SCORPIONS IN HERE!
PLEASE DON'T COME IN UNTIL WE HAVE KILLED ALL OF THEM.
POISONOUS SCORPIONS!?
YES, MA'AM
SOMEONE PUT THEM IT THIS BOX AND SET THEM FREE LAST NIGHT
WHERE IS THE PRINCESS!?
HER... HER BODY IS IN ANOTHER ROOM

PRINCESS!!
PRINCESS AKSAM!!
WAAAAAAH
LET ME SEE THE BODY
YOUR HIGHNESS
YOUR HIGHNESS, HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN IN THE SERAGLIO?
IT'S UNTHINKABLE
DID YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS
LAST NIGHT AROUND HER BEDROOM?

I ERRONEOUSLY FELL ASLEEP LAST NIGHT
BUT...
mumble
BEING KILLED BY SCORPIONS.
ISHTAR WAS VERY ANGRY AT PRINCESS AKSAM WHEN SHE SET SCORPIONS FREE IN HER BEDROOM.
mumble
!?
N...NO, I DIDN'T MEAN SO
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT MY CONCUBINE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A VALID PROOF, DO NOT SPEAK

KAIL
DON'T WORRY
WE'LL CATCH THE PERSON THE QUEEN DOWAGER IS CONTROLLING
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS WITHIN THE SERAGLIO!!
PROTECT PRINCESS YURI AND THE REST OF THE PRINCESSES!!
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE ALLOW US TO GUARD THE SERAGLIO TOO
WE WANT TO BE NEARBY TO PROTECT PRINCESS YURI
THE THREE COMMANDERS!

YES, SIR!!
I'M COUNTING ON ALL OF YOU THEN
KASH, RUSAFA, MITTANNAMWA.
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN OR WAS IT A MISTAKE!?
OR WAS IT THAT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TARGET W SN'T ME FROM THE BEGINNING!?

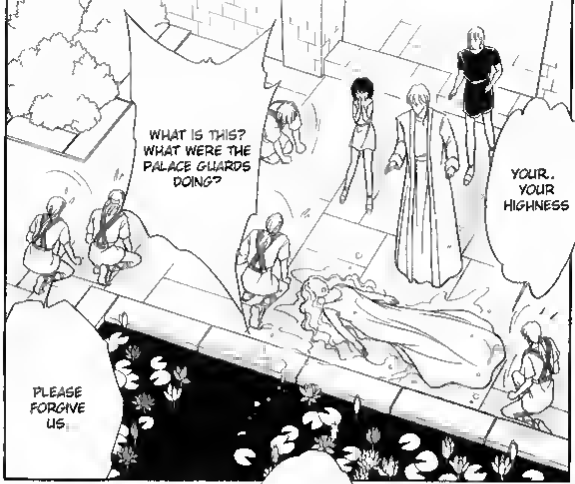
HURRY UP
PRINCESS AKSAM'S BODY IS BEING CARRIED OUT OF THE ROYAL PALACE
THE PRINCESS'S FATHER, LORD TUDALIA WAS ECSTATIC WHEN SHE WAS ELECTED TO BE ONE OF THE QUEEN CANDIDATES
LIFE IS FULL OF UNCERTAINTY, ISN'T IT?
klang
klang
klang

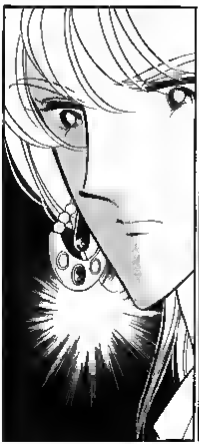
THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE I WAS TOO CARELESS.
UNCLE, PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE APOLOGY.
OH, AKSAM.
BUT I TRUST THAT YOU WILL CERTAINLY FIND THE KILLER IN THE END.
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU CAN'T LOWER YOUR HEAD LIKE THAT.
PRINCESS AKSAM'S PARENTS. IT'S NORMAL THAT THEY WOULDN'T FORGIVE THE KILLER.
I WILL.
PLEASE, YOU MUST GIVE THE DEATH PENALTY TO THE KILLER!!
YOUR HIGHNESS,

HEY,
CAN YOU SEE!?
murmur
murmur
DON'T PUSH!!
murmur
murmur
LOOK EVERYONE IS SO OCCUPIED WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE
THE SERAGLIO SUDDENLY SEEMS SO EMPTY.
H-HEY... THAT...
HUH?
GET BACK TO WORK!!

IN... IN THE POND...

YOUR HIGHNESS, ANOTHER PRINCESS HAS BEEN ASSASSI-NATED
WHAT!
SOMEONE JUST FOUND THE BODY IN THE GARDEN POOL
WHO WAS ASSASSI-NATED!?
A... ANOTHER PRINCESS...?
PRIN... PRINCESS LIRE, YOUR MAJESTY.

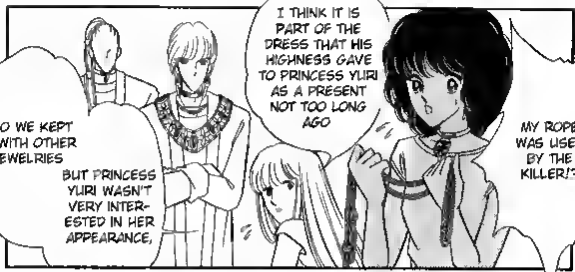

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT WERE THE PALACE GUARDS DOING?
YOUR.. YOUR HIGHNESS
PLEASE FORGIVE US.

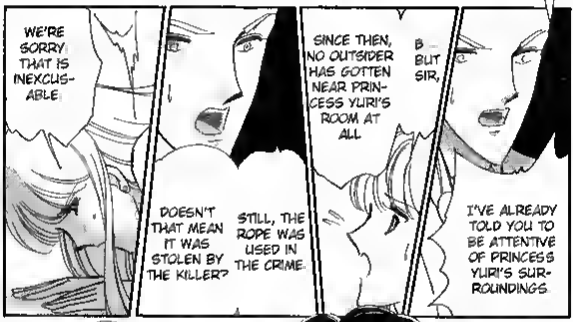


THIS ROPE WAS STILL ENTANGLED AROUND HER NECK WHEN WE PULLED HER OUT.

DID SHE DROWN?
NO, SIR.
THE BODY WAS THROWN INTO THE WATER AFTER SHE'D BEEN STRANGLED

NO
THIS JUST HAPPENED RECENTLY. DON'T LET ANYONE IN OR OUT OF
YOUR HIGHNESS, DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING?
KAIL?
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU SUMMONED US?
HADI,
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS ROPE?
YES, SIR THIS ROPE
BELONGS TO PRINCESS YURI
WHAT!?


I THINK IT IS PART OF THE DRESS THAT HIS HIGHNESS GAVE TO PRINCESS YURI AS A PRESENT NOT TOO LONG AGO
MY ROPE WAS USED BY THE KILLER!?
SO WE KEPT IT WITH OTHER JEWELRIES
BUT PRINCESS YURI WASN'T VERY INTERESTED IN HER APPEARANCE,


WE'RE SORRY. THAT IS INEXCUSABLE.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN IT WAS STOLEN BY THE KILLER?
STILL, THE ROPE WAS USED IN THE CRIME.
SINCE THEN, NO OUTSIDER HAS GOTTEN NEAR PRINCESS YURI'S ROOM AT ALL
B-BUT SIR,
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU TO BE ATTENTIVE OF PRINCESS YURI'S SURROUNDINGS.

WHAT IS THE QUEEN DOWAGER THINKING?
WHY MUST THE KILLER USE MY ROPE?
WAIT BUT WHY?

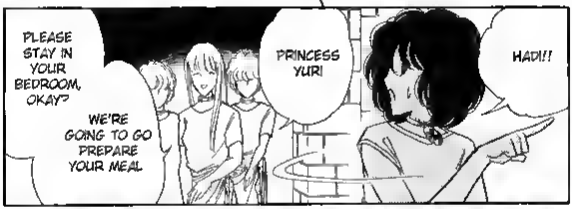
KAIL? WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR MAJESTY
JUST A MOMENT AGO,
THERE WAS AN URGENT MESSAGE DELIVERED FROM BABYLONIA, SIR.

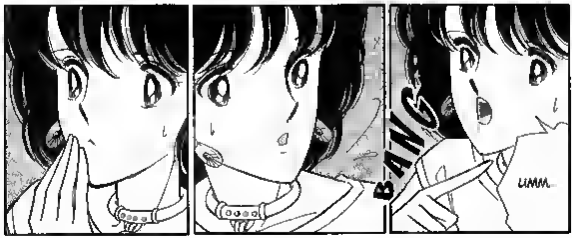
A MESSAGE FROM BABYLONIA?

KAIL
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
THE KING'S YOUNGER BROTHER, PRINCE TULUKNILALI,
IS COMING TO HATTUSA AS BABYLONIA'S AMBASSADOR.
HE SAID HE WANTED TO COME SEE HOW PRINCESS ICINSAURA IS DOING SINCE SHE'S BEEN STAYING IN THE SERAGLIO.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WHY WOULD...
KAIL!
YURI, DON'T COME OUT OF THE SERAGLIO! NO, DON'T COME OUT OF YOUR ROOM NO MATTER WHAT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DON'T YOU THINK QUEEN DOWAGER'S TACTIC THIS TIME IS STRANGE?
QUEEN DOWAGER'S NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE IS TO CUT OFF PRINCESS YURI'S HEAD
BUT SHE WON'T SUCCEED NO MATTER WHICH PRINCESS SHE USES AS THE "ASSASSIN."
THAT'S RIGHT..
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TARGET IS MY LIFE, ISN'T IT? .. THEN WHY?
EH?

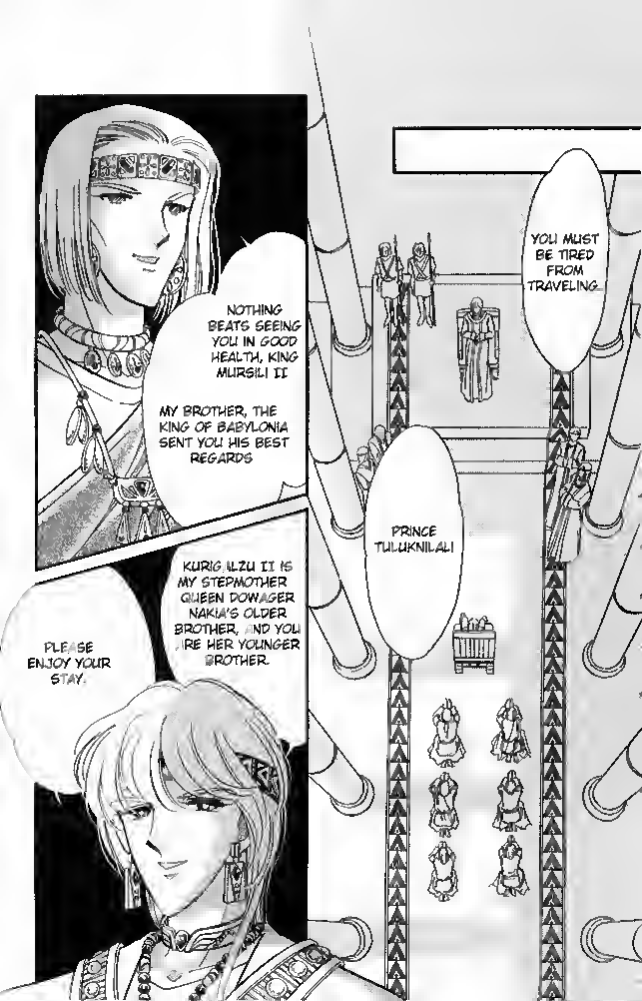
PRINCESS ICINSAURA!?
EVERYONE WAS ORDERED TO STAY WITHIN THE SERAGLIO WHERE IS SHE GOING?


HADI!!
PRINCESS YURI
PLEASE STAY IN YOUR BEDROOM, OKAY?
WE'RE GOING TO GO PREPARE YOUR MEAL


BANG
UMM.

SHE'S GOING INTO A DESERTED AREA TOO...
IF SHE WAS GOING INTO THE ASSEMBLY HALL, I WOULD HAVE JUST ASSUMED THAT SHE WAS GOINGING TO GO SEE THE AMBASSADOR OF BABYLONIA.
DON'T TELL ME THIS PRINCESS IS THE "ASSASSIN" THE QUEEN DOWAGER IS CONTROLLING'?

Thump
DAMN IT...
I WAS TOO CARELESS...
!?
WHO'S THIS!?
BIG... HANDS...?


YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM TRAVELING.
PRINCE TULUKNILALI
NOTHING BEATS SEEING YOU IN GOOD HEALTH, KING MURSILI II
MY BROTHER, THE KING OF BABYLONIA SENT YOU HIS BEST REGARDS
KURIGALZU II IS MY STEPMOTHER QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA'S OLDER BROTHER, AND YOU ARE HER YOUNGER BROTHER.
PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY.

OUR SIDE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE HITTITES, JUST AS MY SISTER NAKIA PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR OFFER.
LATELY PRINCESS ICINSAURA HAS ALSO BEEN RECEIVING YOUR HOSPITALITY...
.....
LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.
FOR NOW, SHALL WE GO DRINK SOME WINE IN ANOTHER ROOM?
AAAA... THAT SOUNDS GOOD
IS IT REALLY ABOUT BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY?
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S YOUNGER BROTHER CAME AT A TIME LIKE THIS

MMM...
MY HEAD HURTS...
AM I... .?
WHERE...

open
PLEASE COME THIS WAY
PRINCESS ICINSAURA !?

TH...THIS...!?

ICINGAURA!!
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S OBJECTIVE NOW—!!

QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!
THE QUEEN DOWAGER..
ICINSAURA!!
WH...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, YOUR HIGHNESS!?!

THE QUEEN DOWAGER INTENDS TO MAKE ME THE SERIAL KILLER WHO MURDERED THOSE PRINCESSES!
THE PUNISHMENT FOR KILLING ROYALTIES IS DECAPITATION!

ICINSAURA!
T...
THIS...
WHY... WHY
ICINSAURA!?
QUEEN DOWAGER
NAKIA DIDN'T
PLAN TO KILL ME
DIRECTLY.

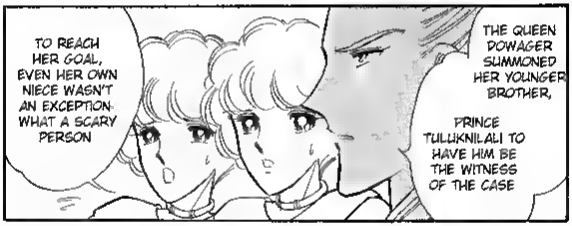
KAIL
YURI, WHAT HAPPENED? HOW DID THAT BLOOD GET ON YOU?
NO, YOUR HIGHNESS, I...
WHO ARE YOU!?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHY DID YOU KILL ICHI-SAURA!?
SHE PLANNED TO FRAME ME AS THE KILLER AND EXECUTE ME IN THE OPEN INSTEAD!
I... I DIDN'T...
I DIDN'T KILL HER!!

SO THIS IS THE CONCUBINE WHO IS RUMORED TO BE ISHTAR REINCARNATED.
PRINCE TULLIK-NILALI
THIS GIRL IS MY CONCUBINE, YURI ISHTAR
I SEE.
THE CONCUBINE WHO WANTS TO MONOPOLIZE THE LORD'S AFFECTION...
GOT JEALOUS OF THE PRINCESS WHO WILL BECOME THE NEW QUEEN. TO TELL THE TRUTH, IT HAPPENS QUITE OFTEN
KIKKURI, TAKE YURI TO ANOTHER ROOM
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! SOMEONE BROUGHT ME HERE WHILE I WASN'T CONSCIOUS...
DON'T GO ANYWHERE UNTIL I GO SEE YOU, YURI
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
PRINCESS YURI PLEASE DO AS HIS HIGHNESS SAID...

KING MURSIL! II!
THE PRINCESS WHO CAME AS AN OFFICIAL VISITOR ENDED UP BEING MURDERED LIKE THIS.
HOW DO YOU WANT ME TO REPORT THIS TO MY OLDER BROTHER, KING OF BABYLONIA, WHO IS ALSO ICINSALIRA'S FATHER!?
I EXPECT TO SEE THAT THIS MATTER IS HANDLED PROPERLY AND THE KILLER TO BE PUNISHED TO THE EXTENT OF THE CRIME.

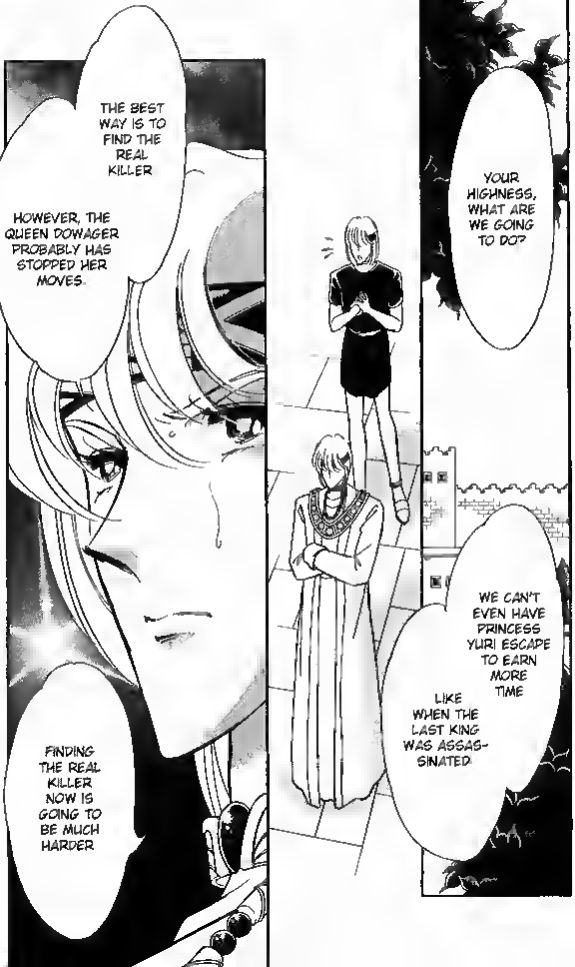
IT'S NOT ME!!
I DIDN'T KILL PRINCESS AKSUM OR PRINCESS URE EITHER.
I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE!
—RI
PRINCESS YURI
THE KILLER IS ANOTHER PRINCESS WHO WAS CONTROLLED BY THE QUEEN DOWAGER!

HAD!
PRINCESS YURI, PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES


TO REACH HER GOAL, EVEN HER OWN NIECE WASN'T AN EXCEPTION. WHAT A SCARY PERSON
THE QUEEN DOWAGER SUMMONED HER YOUNGER BROTHER, PRINCE TULUKNILALI TO HAVE HIM BE THE WITNESS OF THE CASE

NO...
I CAN'T DO THAT YET. IT HAS TO BE INVESTIGATED PROPERLY FIRST
PLEASE CHANGE OUT OF THOSE BLOOD-STAINED CLOTHES

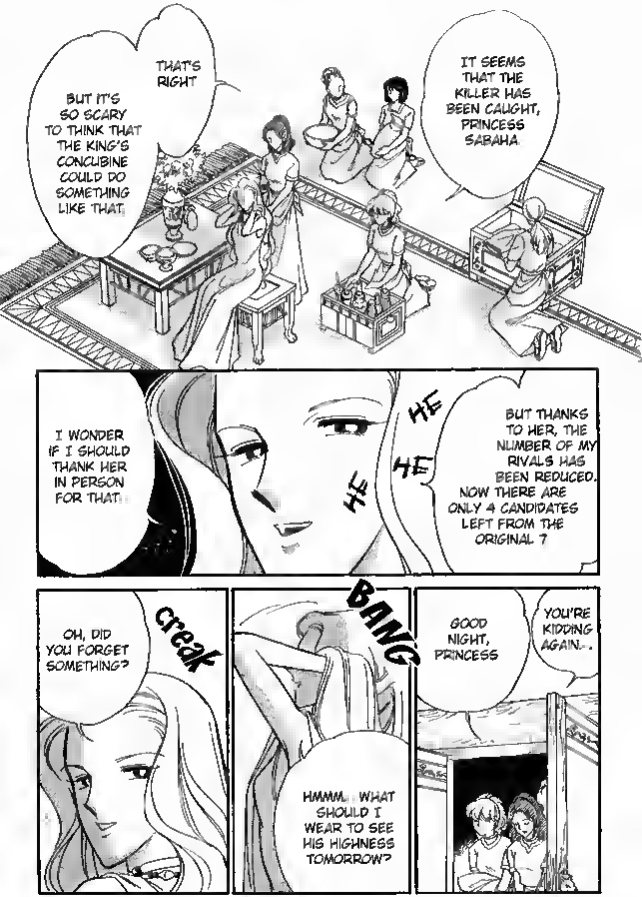
IF YOU MEAN THE INVESTIGATION,
HIS HIGHNESS IS DIRECTING THE SOLDIERS ON THE SUBJECT RIGHT NOW.
SO PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES FIRST.
PRINCESS YURI WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GIVE TESTIMONY,
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS PLACE STILL DOESN'T HAVE SCIENTIFIC CRIME EXAMINATION LIKE CHECKING FOR FINGERPRINTS OR VERIFYING BLOOD TYPE.
IT'S THE SAME AS THE TIME WHEN THE LAST KING WAS
EVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCE ALONE CAN ALREADY MAKE ME THE MURDERER!

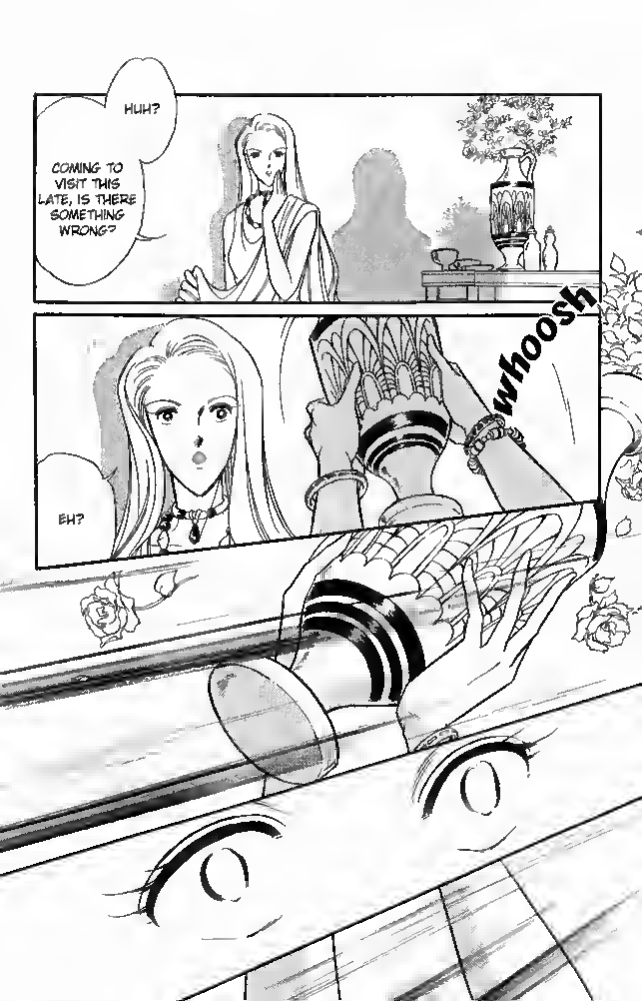

YOUR HIGHNESS, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE CAN'T EVEN HAVE PRINCESS YURI ESCAPE TO EARN MORE TIME
LIKE WHEN THE LAST KING WAS ASSAS-SINATED
THE BEST WAY IS TO FIND THE REAL KILLER
HOWEVER, THE QUEEN DOWAGER PROBABLY HAS STOPPED HER MOVES.
FINDING THE REAL KILLER NOW IS GOING TO BE MUCH HARDER

QUEEN DOWAGER'S PALACE
TATATATATATATATA
THIS TIME YURI CAN'T ESCAPE FOR SURE
I GUESS I'M GOING TO EXECUTE HER THIS WAY
QUEEN DOWAGER, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE PERSON WE ARE CONTROLLING?
JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE
SHE IS NO USE TO US AS LONG AS YURI IS GOING TO BE EXECUTED

THAT'S TRUE
THE PERSON IS UNDER MY CONTROL
BECAUSE SHE HAS DRUNK THE "BLACK WATER."
BUT UNLESS SHE RECEIVES ORDERS FROM ME SHE WOULD NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER ORDINARY PERSON

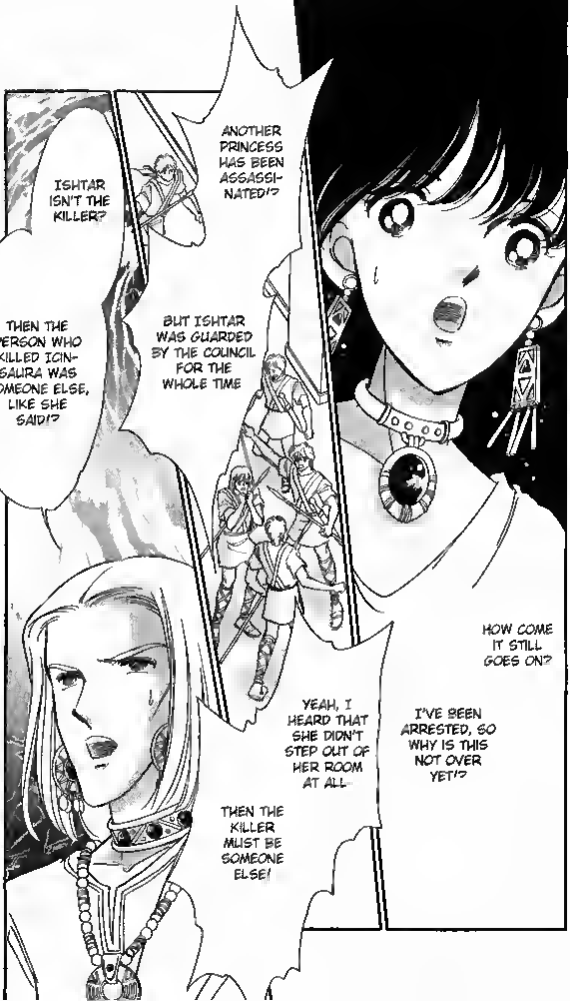
THE KING MUST ACQUIRE A QUEEN.
ISHTAR IS PROBABLY NOT SO THRILLED WITH THE IDEA.
IS IT TRUE THAT ISHTAR KILLED PRINCESS ICINSAURA!?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE KING FAVORS HER, KILLING PRINCESSES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IS STILL...
I WONDER HOW ISHTAR IS DOING RIGHT NOW...
IT SEEMS SO I HEARD THAT SHE WAS FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE
THE RUMOR SAID THAT ISHTAR WAS ALSO THE ONE WHO KILLED PRINCESS AKSAM AND PRINCESS URE.


IT SEEMS THAT THE KILLER HAS BEEN CAUGHT, PRINCESS SABAHA
THAT'S RIGHT
BUT IT'S SO SCARY TO THINK THAT THE KING'S CONCUBINE COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUT THANKS TO HER, THE NUMBER OF MY RIVALS HAS BEEN REDUCED. NOW THERE ARE ONLY 4 CANDIDATES LEFT FROM THE ORIGINAL 7
HE
HE
I WONDER IF I SHOULD THANK HER IN PERSON FOR THAT.
YOU'RE KIDDING AGAIN...
GOOD NIGHT, PRINCESS
BANG
HMMM. WHAT SHOULD I WEAR TO SEE HIS HIGHNESS TOMORROW?
creak
OH, DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?


HUH?
COMING TO VISIT THIS LATE, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
whoosh
EH?

ドサッ
AAAAAAGH!
PRINCESS!!

WHAT!?
THIS TIME PRINCESS SABAHA WAS ASSASSINATED!?


ANOTHER PRINCESS HAS BEEN ASSASSI-NATED!?
ISHTAR ISN'T THE KILLER?
BUT ISHTAR WAS GUARDED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE WHOLE TIME
THEN THE PERSON WHO KILLED ICIN-SAURA WAS SOMEONE ELSE, LIKE SHE SAID!?
HOW COME IT STILL GOES ON?
I'VE BEEN ARRESTED, SO WHY IS THIS NOT OVER YET!?
YEAH, I HEARD THAT SHE DIDN'T STEP OUT OF HER ROOM AT ALL
THEN THE KILLER MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE!

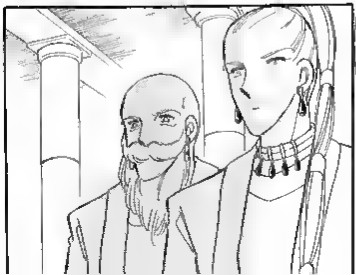
crash
I DIDN'T ORDER HER TO DO ANYTHING YET
WHAT IS THIS!?
THAT'S TRUE
BUT BECAUSE OF THIS WE CAN'T MAKE PRINCESS YURI THE KILLER ANYMORE
USUALLY THE PERSON WHO DRANK THE BLACK WATER WOULD ONLY TAKE ACTIONS ON MY COMMANDS!
BUT SHE MADE A MOVE EVEN WITHOUT MY COMMAND, HOW COULD THIS BE?

ISHTAR
PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR DOUBTING YOU.
IN FACT, WE DIDN'T REALLY SUSPECT YOU, BUT SINCE WE WERE THE COUNCIL...
GRAND CHAMBERLAIN AIGIL, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHER MATTER. WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS, DO WE?
Y.. YES MA'AM.
PLEASE EXCUSE US
THAT'S RIGHT! QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA CAN CONTROL THE WATER
BUT YOUR HIGHNESS, TOO, CAN CONTROL THE WIND, RIGHT?

I INHERITED MY ABILITY FROM MY MOTHER, BUT MY MOTHER USED TO ALWAYS SAY THAT,
"TO GOVERN HUMAN, WE HAVE TO USE HUMAN ABILITY."
IF IT'S THE SAME TYPE OF DARK POWERS,
THEN SHOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO USE IT TO FIND THE KILLER?
DARK POWERS ARE ABILITIES BEYOND HUMANS.
EVER SINCE I ASSUMED THE THRONE, I HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO USE IT.

BUT, WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED?
THE ASSASSINATION THIS TIME DID NOT BENEFIT THE QUEEN DOWAGER AT ALL... I DON'T THINK THE QUEEN DOWAGER WAS THE ONE WHO COMMANDED IT
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING TOO MUCH
IF THAT'S THE CASE WHOM DID SHE DO IT FOR?
YOUR HIGHNESS
HMM?

WE MAY BE ABLE TO...
FIND OUT...



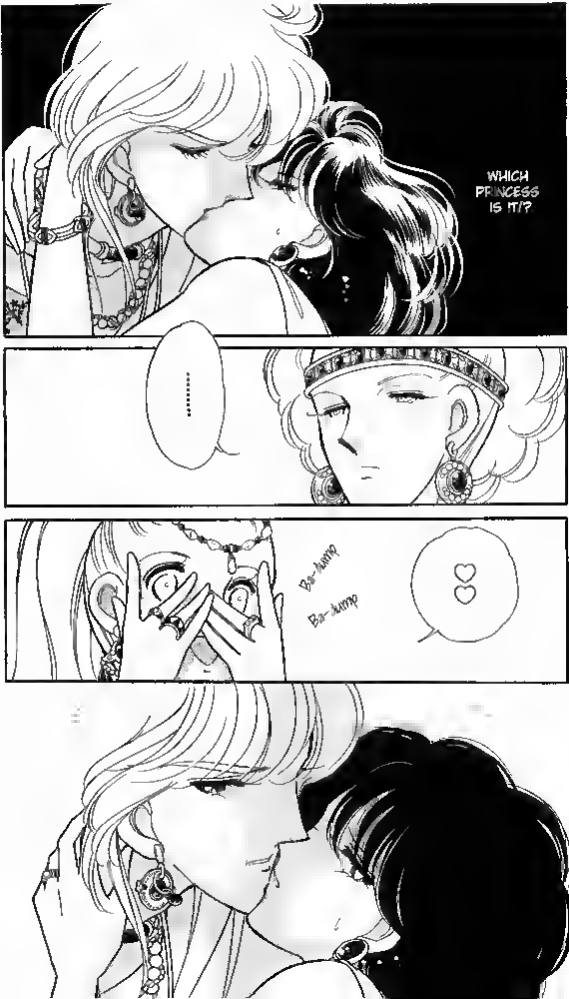
WOULD YOU MAKE UP A REASON TO HAVE THE THREE REMAINING PRINCESSES GATHER INTO ONE PLACE?
WHY? DO YOU KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS!?

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA OF ARZAWA
PRINCESS ADDASHARRAT OF ASSYRIA,
THE REMAINING PRINCESSES ARE PRINCESS CELT OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF HITTITES,
THE PERSON WHO KILLED THOSE FOUR PRINCESSES MUST DEFINITELY BE AMONG THESE THREE!

TODAY I SET UP THIS OCCASION SO THAT EVERYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THEIR MIND OUT OF THOSE MATTERS FOR A SHORT WHILE
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE FOR THE DISTRESSING MATTERS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING THESE DAYS
EVERYONE, PLEASE ENJOY THE PARTY
THAT'S RIGHT
HIS HIGHNESS IS ALWAYS KIND LIKE THIS

JEALOUSY!!
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON TO CONSIDER
A PRINCESS WAS ASSASSINATED EVEN WITHOUT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S COMMAND
H.. HEY YURI?
KISS
KISS
I, MYSELF, HAVE BEEN HAVING PLENTY OF FUN,
SO I WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME TOO
THE PRINCESS MUST LOVE KAIL
SO MUCH THAT SHE SEES OTHER PRINCESSES AS OBSTACLES
KISS
YOUR HIGH-NESS

WHO
IS SHE!?


WHICH PRINCESS IS IT!?
.....
Ba-bump
Ba-bump

thump
PRINCESS CELT!
clank
swip

BACK AWAY FROM HIS HIGHNESS
YURI ISHTAR
THE ONE WHO I REALLY WANT TO KILL MORE THAN THOSE FOUR IS YOU
AAAH!
PRINCESS CELT!?
PRINCESS CELT IS THE KILLER!?
.....
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

AAAAAH!
IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER, I'LL KILL HER!
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA!!
wap
wap
wap
.....

I DIDN'T CHOOSE WHOM TO CONTROL.
I ONLY CAST A SPELL ON THE "BLACK WATER" SO THAT IT WOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE PERSON WHO HATED YURI THE MOST
THE ONE WHO CALLED THE "BLACK WATER" WAS CELT HERSELF!!

EVERYONE, DON'T MOVE!
IF ANYONE MOVES I'LL KILL HER!
AAAAH, LET GO OF ME!

I HAVE ALREADY KILLED 4 PEOPLE ADDING ANOTHER ONE WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!!
STOP SCREAMING OR I'LL KILL YOU
AAAAAAH!!
PRINCESS CELT KILLED THOSE 4 PRIN-CESSES!?
THE ONE WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED IS PRINCESS CELT!

YOUR HIGH-NESS
NOBODY MAKE A MOVE
IF WE MAKE HER FLUSTERED, THE HOSTAGE WILL BE IN DANGER.
ANY MIS-STEPS MAY PROVOKE PRINCESS CELT
IT'S UNBE-LIEV-ABLE!
A PRINCESS FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY IS THE KILLER...
PRINCESS CELT REALLY KILLED THOSE 4 PRINCESSES?
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA MAY...
QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!!

QUEEN DOWAGER!
DON'T LET PRINCESS CELT KILL ANYMORE PEOPLE THAN THIS!
STOP MANIPULATING OTHER PEOPLE ALREADY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
BUT KILLING FOUR PEOPLE IS REALLY ATROCIOUS
QUEEN DOWAGER!
YOU HAD PRINCESS CELT DRINK THE "BLACK WATER."
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
WHY WOULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
MANIPULATE...

HOWEVER,
PRINCESS CELT'S WISH IS QUITE NORMAL.
EVER SINCE THE START OF OUR EXISTENCE
HAS BEEN NATURAL FOR HUMAN BEING TO WISH FOR THE HIGHEST POSITION
FOR A WOMAN IT'S NORMAL FOR HER TO ASPIRE TO BE QUEEN.
QUEEN DOWAGER..

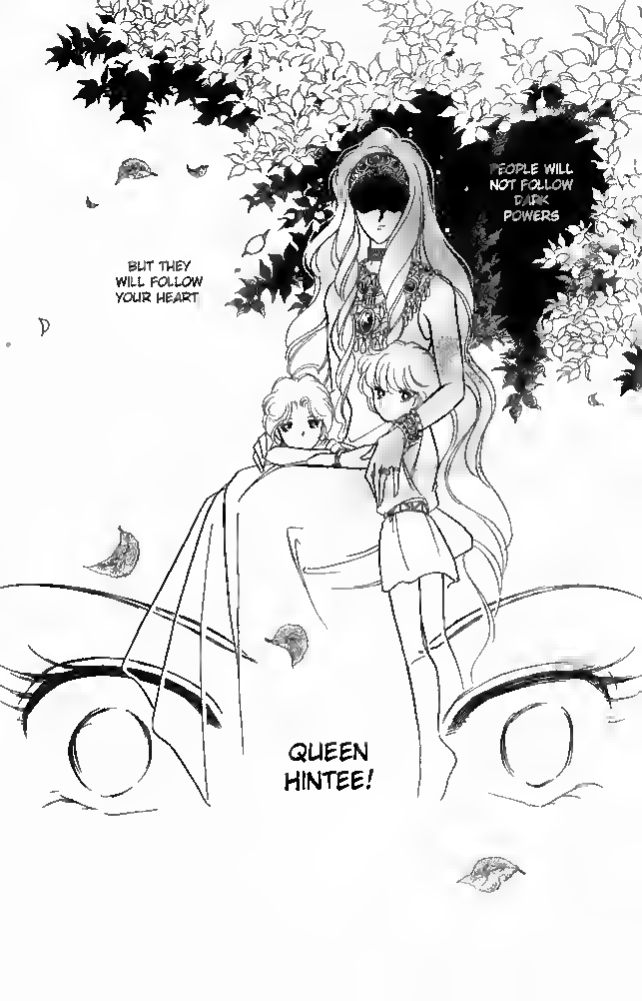
IT'S NORMAL FOR HER TO WISH TO HAVE ALL THE WEALTH AND GLORY OF THE WORLD IN HER HANDS...
FOR ALL THEIR LIFE, THE LOWER CLASSES WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS...
SO THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO BEND OTHERS' THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AS SHE WISHES
THIS WOMAN...
GASP

Startled
CELT,
LET GO OF PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
LET ME BE BY YOUR SIDE!
THEN YOUR HIGHNESS MUST MAKE ME YOUR QUEEN
AAAAAH!!
IF YOU WON'T, I'LL KILL THIS PRINCESS ALONG WITH MYSELF!
CELT!

SLOWLY ENCIRCLE HER!
DON'T STOP FOLLOW HER WITH TOO MANY PEOPLE
HELP ME!
WHAT! UNCLE IS HERE!?
YOUR HIGHNESS! PRINCESS CELT'S FATHER IS HERE!
SHUT UP!

OH... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MY DAUGHTER KILLED THOSE FOUR PRINCESSES...
YOUR HIGHNESS, THIS MUST BE A MISTAKE
CELT MUST HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY SOMETHING
YOUR HIGHNESS!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
QUEEN DOWAGER, PLEASE HELP US
PLEASE EXEMPT HER FROM BEING BEHEADED!
YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS
YOUR HIGHNESS HAS THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THE WIND, RIGHT?
CAN YOU USE THAT ABILITY TO MAKE CELT REGAIN HER CONSCIOUSNESS!?
UNCLE
CELT HAS NOW GONE UP TO THE PALACE'S WALL

UNCLE,
I DON'T WANT TO USE DARK POWERS TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY.
THIS IS BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS OBEY AND FOLLOW PEOPLE'S HEARTS
PRINCESS NAKIA
IT'S NOT GOOD TO USE DARK POWERS CASUALLY LIKE THAT
THE MORE WE USE DARK ABILITIES TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE AND THINGS,
THE LESS WE WILL BE ABLE TO GRASP PEOPLE'S HEARTS


PEOPLE WILL NOT FOLLOW DARK POWERS
BUT THEY WILL FOLLOW YOUR HEART
QUEEN HINTEE!

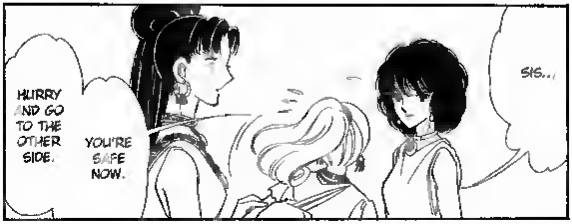
Startled
IN ANY CASE,
I WILL DEFINITELY PROTECT THE SAFETY OF BOTH PRINCESS CELT AND PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.
YOUR HIGHNESS
UNCLE, DON'T WORRY
KAIL!!
THE ONLY SON OF THAT QUEEN HINTEE

PRINCESS CELT!
STOP THIS ALREADY! PLEASE LET THE HOSTAGE GO!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!

YOUR HIGHNESS
PRINCESS YURI IS TRYING TO PERSUADE HER, BUT NO MATTER WHAT, PRINCESS CELT STILL
HOW IS IT?
I DON'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING IF THE KING NO LONGER WANTS ME
I'LL TAKE THIS PRINCESS TO DEATH WITH ME TOO!!
I UNDERSTAND, PRINCESS CELT
IF YOU WANT TO TAKE SOMEONE WITH YOU, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME INSTEAD?
LET PRINCESS ALEXANDRA GO

WHAT!?
PLEASE TRUST ME WITH THIS!
YURI!?
RIGHT NOW, I AM THE PERSON WHO THE KING FAVORS THE MOST!
DIDN'T YOU ALSO SAY IT YOURSELF THAT...
THE ONE YOU REALLY WANT TO KILL IS ME?

PRIN-CESS YURI
OKAY
COME THIS WAY SLOWLY.
SHE IS DIFFERENT FROM QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!
BUT SHE TRULY LOVES KAIL
THIS WOMAN DOES NOT WANT THE QUEEN POSITION


HURRY AND GO TO THE OTHER SIDE.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
SIS...

I C N'T LET HER USE THAT MATTER TO CONTROL OTHERS!
whup
SORRY, PRINCESS CELT...
AAH
whoosh
SHE DROPPED THE KNIFE!

A...
AAGH
PRIN-
CESS
YOU'RE CELT
A WOMAN
WHO HIS
HIGHNESS
USED TO
LOVE IN
THE PAST.
OPEN YOUR
EYES AND
WAKE UP
ALREADY
PRINCESS
BE STRONG!
A...
A... AAH!
!?
IF SHE
SPEWS
OUT THAT
"BLACK
WATER"...
PRINCESS
CELT!!

A...
ARGH
QUEEN DOWAGER!
HUFF
PRIN-CESS!?
RIGHT,
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU.
HUFF!

YURI!!
SHOVE
PRIN-
CESS!?

AAAAGH!

PRIN-
CESS
YURI!!
THE SERAGLIO IS IN THE HIGHEST SPOT OF THE ROYAL PALACE TOO!
YURI!!
fwip
YOUR HIGH-
NESS!?
fwip
zaaaa!

swish
swish
swish
swish
sh
AAGH!!
ALILIGH!

THE WIND IS BLASTING UP FROM THE VALLEY!
zaaa
fwip
zaaah
fwip
zaah
fwip
AAAH!!
zaaa
fwip

AAH?
THE WIND IS SUPPORTING MY BODY!?
sigh
KAIL!?
PRINCESS CELT !?
URGH...

swish
fwish
fwish
SHE THREW UP THE "BLACK WATER"!?
Urgh

PRINCESS YURI!
PRINCESS CELT!
YURI!
UNN...
PRINCESS CELT, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT?
AH... WHY AM I IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?

PRIN-
CESS
YURI!
PRINCESS
YURI!? ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?
PRIN-
CESS
YURI!
YOUR
HIGHNESS,
SHE'S NOT
AROUND
HERE AT
ALL
WHERE
IS
YURI?

YES, SIR.
SEARCH FOR HER! ENLARGE THE SEARCH AREA TO EVEN WIDER.
YURI!?
UGH...
blink

AH, I'M IN H...
PRINCESS YURI, WHERE ARE YOU!?
WHERE AM I?
HUH?
PLEASE BE QUIET
gasp
PRINCESS YURI

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
RUSAFA!?

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CREDITS:
SCANNER: UNKNOWN
TRANSLATOR: PEARLELPIS
EDITOR: SILVER
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